Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Compromise' Reportedly Struck To Resume Talks

NC0501145594 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Report by Sammy Ketz]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Jan 5 (AFP)—The PLO and Israel have struck a compromise to resume self-rule talks next week in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba after a week's freeze, an Israeli negotiator said Wednesday [5 January].

"The two sides are expected at the end of the week to announce the resumption of the Taba negotiations on the basis of the document drawn up last Wednesday in Cairo," he said.

"But the Palestinians will be able to rediscuss the points which they judge contentious," the negotiator told AFP, asking not to be named.

The compromise allows both sides to argue that they stood their ground on a draft document which Israel leaked after negotiations last week in the Egyptian capital.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have fought a battle of words over their different interpretations of the last round of negotiations, but have been holding intensive consultations in private.

"The PLO offered us a dozen compromise formulas before giving one that satisfied us," the negotiator said. [passage omitted]

Peres, 'Abbas Statement on Talks Resumption

TA0601072994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The official announcement on the resumption of Israeli-PLO talks has just been issued in Jerusalem and Tunis. The statement was made simultaneously by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, head of the Israeli Liaison Committee, and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], head of the Palestinian delegation.

Following is the text of the announcement:

The two sides reaffirm their total commitment to the letter and spirit of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. They believe that the talks in Norway, Versailles, and Cairo will help to achieve an agreement that will quickly turn the DOP into a new reality on the ground. Once an agreement is reached, it will be impossible to change it unilaterally. The two sides have agreed to resume the Taba negotiations on the basis of the DOP and the understandings reached in Cairo.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 6 January adds that "the talks will resume on 10 January. Sources in Jerusalem expressed their satisfaction with the compromise formulated by Peres and Nabil Sha'th"]

Israel Submits Draft on Autonomy's Legal Aspects

TA0501144394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jan 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] Israel wants to retain legal and judicial responsibility for the handling of serious crimes perpetrated by Palestinians in the autonomous areas in Gaza and Jericho, even after the agreement of principles is implemented.

This proposal is contained in a draft document dealing with the implementation of the legal aspects of the autonomy agreement submitted to the PLO for perusal .

According to the proposal, crimes committed by Palestinians against Israelis and resulting in death or serious injury, as well as rape and kidnapping, would be immediately transferred from the Palestinian police to the Israeli law enforcement authorities.

The document relayed to the PLO was drafted by a team of police officers and legal experts in the Foreign, Defense, and Justice Ministries and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The document stipulates that Israelis in the autonomous areas would enjoy quasi-diplomatic status. They would enjoy immunity from the Palestinian police and could be arrested, interrogated, and tried only by Israeli elements.

Israel proposes full reciprocity in law enforcement only with regard to minor crimes committed by Palestinians or Israelis within the autonomous areas. Minor crimes committed by Palestinians against Israelis would be handled by the Palestinian law enforcement authorities. They would conduct the investigation, arrest, trial, and punishment and would then report the measures taken to the Israeli law authorities. If they fail to do so, Israel would be entitled to deal with these crimes as it sees fit.

The document contains a detailed proposal on law enforcement and policing in the autonomous areas. Joint patrols by Israel Police and the Palestinian police force would drive in two cars on all the roads where there is intensive Israeli traffic (such as the Erez-Rafah road). There would be two kinds of patrols: one kind would drive back and forth, while the other would be stationary. The latter would be deployed at major junctions, and would be summoned as warranted by reports about incidents.

The Israeli and Palestinian police vehicles would be linked by radio to a joint situation room. Three situation rooms would be established: one in Jericho and two in the Gaza Strip, one in the north and another in the south. The situation rooms would be overseen by a liaison committee.

Joint patrols accompanied by patrols of the Israeli security forces would drive on lateral roads linking the Gaza Strip and Israel.

The draft agreement submitted to the PLO further states that the implementation of the autonomy in Gaza and Jericho would not annul existing entitlements or private deals between Israelis and Palestinians. The law of continuity would apply to obligations, rights, and damage suits. It should be pointed out that upon mutual consent any security and legal arrangements to be decided would be subject to revision in the following five years.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria's Khaddam Addresses Press Agency Meeting

JN0401211894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met at noon today with the heads and members of the Arab press agencies' delegations participating in the 21st conference of the General Assembly of Arab News Agencies Union. [passage omitted]

Khaddam addressed the heads and members of the Arab News Agencies delegations participating in this conference. He said: It gives me pleasure to meet with some of the elite who work in the Arab information field. I wish you an enjoyable stay in Syria and I wish your conference success in attaining the objectives for which it is meeting. [passage omitted]

Khaddam said: You know that the Arab nation faces serious challenges against its present and past, not to mention its future. These challenges revolve around the control of the land and the will. The foremost of these challenges is the Zionist challenge and the foreign designs against our countries. We face these challenges under complicated international circumstances as the world now lacks balance, objectivity, and law, not to mention the state of division and fragmentation the Arabs are suffering, and the stagnant Arab unity movement and the activities it should have inspired that would have been employed in tackling these challenges. If the Zionist challenge now is the same as ih was years ago, it remains the most serious challenge in the future because the Zionist movement has an ideology and a strategy based on the establishment of a major power in this region. The political borders of this state, as we know, will not be within the boundaries of its present aggression. Its economic borders will target Arab resources while its strategic borders will extend to Iran, Pakistan, and others.

The domestic challenge, as I have mentioned, is the Arab state of affairs in itself. All joint pan-Arab values have vanished, replaced by concepts that have nothing to do with pan-Arab interests. Arab relations became unbalanced and the use of force or the threat of using it within the framework of these relations has become a manifestation that has contributed to the uncomfortable state of affairs we are now experiencing.

Some of those who have been overpowered by their countries' interests believe that the conflicts they wage serve their people. They do not realize that these conflicts have taken place at the expense of their people and not in their interest, and that these conflicts have taken place in the service of foreign powers and not in their service. Thus, we found pan-Arab unity threatened and we experienced a harsh campaign waged from outside and assisted from within the Arab homeland threatening the national unity of several Arab countries. [passage omitted]

The vice president said: If we review the current circumstances, we realize the role the foreign media has played in the service of Israel. Before the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, there was no one in the West, or among those on its bandwagon, ready to offer any assistance or to seriously work to stop the Israeli pressure against the Palestinian intifadah. Suddenly, after its conclusion, we all saw the media theatrics with which some of the Palestinian leaders have been welcomed in some countries that used to ban their entrance. The media portrayed the incident as if was a historical transformation, and encouraged some to have illusions. This, undoubtedly, has greatly served Israel. [passage omitted]

The vice president said: We always talk about the Arab situation, which pains and embitters every Arab citizen. There is no doubt that unless matters are restored to their natural situation and unless everybody understands that his fate is linked with that of the nation, the Arab situation will remain complicated and painful for every one. Due to our status as a confrontation state and to our historical circumstances, we in Syria fully understand that the restoration of the Arab spirit to Arab relations has become necessary and fateful.

There is no doubt that searching for solutions and creating suitable joint Arab action to serve the nation's interests and its progress should be the responsibility of every one at this current stage.

When waging the battle of peace, which is like a battle in a real war, the fighter will be in a stronger position if his nation is unified and enjoys solidarity. Similarly, the worker in a time of peace will enjoy a stronger position in defending the nation's rights if that nation is unified and enjoys solidarity.

We have been calling for a just and comprehensive peace since the beginning of the seventies, and that the issue of peace has been a principal part of our strategy. We mean by peace a peace that will enable us to regain all our territories and the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

Then came the U.S. initiative, which we accepted after lengthy discussions that led to basic amendments to that initiative, foremost of which are the need for a comprehensive solution on all fronts and insistence on implementing UN resolutions. We went to Madrid, eager to see coordinated Arab action among the Arab parties

involved in the process and also to see other parties that are not directly involved in constant touch because the conflict has a pan-Arab, rather than, regional nature.

All the Arab summits' resolutions have asserted that all solutions should be Arab ones. In light of this concept, we worked and went to the Washington talks, and many attempts were made to reach a solution with Syria on the occupied Syrian territories. We rejected these because we believed in the pan-Arabism of the conflict, and consequently, in the need for a comprehensive solution, because unilateral solutions cannot produce peace and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Then contacts were held, and it was agreed to hold a meeting between President al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva this month. The vice president added: Our position will remain clear. Peace should lead to the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions and to a total withdrawal from the occupied territories. We hope that the meeting will produce positive results. He said: We tried to maintain a unified Arab effort during the peace process, but regrettably, multilateral meetings were held. We believe that such meetings should not discuss issues pertaining to peace before discussing the issue of peace and withdrawal.

He said: You notice brothers that after the signing of the agreement between the PLO and the Israelis, the Israelis tried to make it look as if peace had been realized in the region. They started to demand the lifting of the Arab boycott, and the establishment of relations between Israel and the Arab states. Regrettably, some Western circles adopted this position without taking into consideration that the reason for the Arab boycott was Israel's aggression against the Arabs, its occupation of their lands, and the displacement of millions of Palestinians. The reasons for the boycott still stand. Undoubtedly, the position on this issue has been good, and all attempts to draw the Arab countries into canceling the boycott failed. [passage omitted]

Khaddam addressed the conference and said: I sincerely say to you that had we been feeling weak, we would not have gone to the peace negotiations. It is true that there is a vast military imbalance, but there is also a great imbalance in other issues that are in the Arab favor and are no less important than military power. Had we been feeling weak, we would not have gone to Madrid or Washington because negotiations with the weak or the one who is viewed as weak are sure to be at his expense and at the expense of his land.

He said: We feel that our capabilities and those of the Arabs are not small. These capabilities enable us to feel strong. He pointed out that the time when the Israelis used to carry out operations that made the people feel defeat is no longer. [passage omitted]

He emphasized: There will never be a peace that is not honorable and that does not guarantee our full rights. The peace we want is the one with which we and our future generations will be proud, no matter how bad or complicated the circumstances become. For us, an inch of land represents the dignity, honor, and future of the country. Nevertheless, had the Arab situation been normal, our capabilities to realize gains would have been much better, and this would have been in the interest of all parties.

Khaddam then answered questions of the conference members.

Arab Interior Ministers Issue Communique

LD0501182194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The 11th session of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, which opened yesterday, concluded this afternoon in Tunis.

A final communique was issued which dealt in detail with all the decisions of the Tunis meeting. In addition, two statements were released: the first condemns terrorism and acts of violence; the second concerns developments of the Western-Libyan conflict over the Lockerbie issue. [passage omitted]

Arab League Official Resigns for Health Reasons

NC0601104894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Ni'matallah, Arab League assistant secretary general for economic affairs, today tendered his resignation to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid for health reasons. Dr. Ni'matallah said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid accepted his resignation as of 1 January.

Dr. Ni'matallah noted that he had undergone very serious surgery and that the doctors told him to rest for a long time. He denied that differences are behind his resignation. He noted that Saudi Arabia is expected to name a person to serve the remainder of his term, which is one-and-a-half years. He stressed that, because of his health condition, he will not assume any official position when he returns to Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Ni'matallah wished the Arab League success in its difficult tasks so that the Arab nation can find a suitable place on the world map.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has instructed 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim, Arab League assistant secretary general for internal supervision, to temporarily direct the League's Economic Affairs Department until a candidate is named.

Damascus Declaration States To Hold Meeting

JN0501145394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAKH)—It was announced here today that Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, will lead the Emirian

delegation to the two-day meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states to be held in Damascus on Sunday.

During the meeting, the ministers will discuss developments in the Gulf, the Middle East peace process, and the situation in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ministers will also discuss ways of reinforcing cooperation among the signatories of the Damascus Declaration that was signed in March 1991.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th Interviewed on Resumption of Talks

JN0501134494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, place not given; by Ahmad Birru and Faridah al-Shubashi in the Monte Carlo studio on 5 January—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] It was announced in Israel that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on implementing the autonomy agreement will resume early next week. Is that true? Has Israel stated conditions which you have accepted in order to have the negotiations resumed?

[Sha'th] We will return to the negotiating table, most probably early next week without any preconditions and without any new additions to what we are committed to. We are committed to the agreement which we signed in Washington. No doubt there has been progress in the negotiations over the past three months. We will all benefit from this progress in returning to the negotiations to reach an agreement. In any case, we have passed the storm which Israel has created over an agreement that was not reached in Cairo. It was a working paper on which President Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin added their comments. We are returning to the negotiations without any preconditions.

[Al-Shubashi] How was it possible for Israel to go back on that document which it called the Cairo agreement?

[Sha'th] In fact, we have not used all our cards. I have not published the hand-written agreement which the Israelis wrote and then thoroughly amended, and again changed later. I have not published the paper which we received from Rabin which includes reservations that are no fewer than 'Arafat's reservations because we do not want to escalate the situation. However, we faced them with what had happened. No doubt, the brother Minister 'Amr Musa helped us and was a witness to everything when he said: There was no agreement, there were working papers and the leaders had to comment on them. That is what Israel returned to at last.

[Birru] Has there been any progress concerning points of difference, especially crossings and the Jericho area?

[Sha'th] In fact, closer views were realized in Cairo, Oslo, and Paris negotiations. But what spoiled the broth was changing this progress into a claim that a final agreement was reached. If they said progress was achieved then we would have happily agreed with them, but now we have to go back to the negotiations to place all that we have on the table. We do not want to go back on any progress that has been realized. We want to negotiate on what we have not agreed on.

[Al-Shubashi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, both of you have agreed to defer the question of Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Jerusalem is being Judaized daily. What can the Palestinians do to stop this ongoing process of Judaization?

[Sha'th] As a matter of fact, there is nothing in what we have agreed upon that allows the Israelis to take advantage of time. Therefore, any attempt prior to a final agreement on Jerusalem and the rest of the areas of the West Bank, as well as the other issues which we have not discussed now, will sabotage the goodwill and trust that should prevail between us to arrive at a final solution. We will not sit idle toward any premature attempt. We can protest in various ways. We can also go to the U.S. and Russian sponsors, who signed this agreement with us. Everything should remain the way it is. Anything on which we do not negotiate now should remain frozen until we discuss it two years later.

[Al-Shubashi] Dr. Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat told our radio that withdrawal means withdrawal, and not redeployment. As journalists who follow what happens, we have read that the United States has earmarked funds to finance Israeli redeployment. Do we understand from this that the United States blesses redeployment, and not withdrawal?

[Sha'th] I do not think the Americans want to change or amend this agreement. The opposite is true. However, we should distinguish between what we agreed upon in Gaza and Jericho and what we agreed upon in the rest of the West Bank, which is called redeployment. Any funds that Israel will have to pay will be as a result of redeployment and not withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. They will have only small forces in Gaza and Jericho to defend the settlements from within. But the real redeployment will happen in the rest of the West Bank.

[Al-Shubashi] Is there a plan to have a future agreement on the future of the settlements inside the Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] The settlements are the same as Jerusalem and the return of the 1948 refugees. The final status of these questions has been deferred to the final negotiations to be held within two years.

[Al-Shubashi] The fact that the settlements will remain in Gaza requires Israeli forces to protect them, because Israel insists that the security of the settlements should be in its own hands. How will this problem be resolved?

[Sha'th] The problem is already solved because the agreement we signed in Washington states that Israel is responsible for the security of the settlements. However, the disagreement is about the security belt that surrounds the settlements. We have agreed after long negotiations that protecting the security of the settlements will be from inside and not outside the settlements. The negotiations are now about the security framework of these settlements. This is because we think there is enough territory usurped by Israel for the settlement activity to station any small force over there without a need for any further territory.

[Birru] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you.

[Sha'th] You are welcome.

Qaddumi on Jordan Visit, Talks Resumption

NC0501185894 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Interview with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi by Mu'tazz al-Damardash in Cairo "before Qaddumi's departure for Amman"—recorded]

[Text] [Qaddumi] Clearing the air between brothers is commendable if the intentions are good. We are going to Jordan because clearing the air is good. We view our brothers in Jordan as one people and one country, and our interests are common and interlinked. It is therefore impermissible for vital differences to exist between us.

As for the issues of economy and agreements, we believe that first, we must be on our territory so that we might reach an agreement. We have concluded no agreements over the past year or two because our land is occupied. This land must first return to its owners so that we can build establishments and have our own economy that can cooperate with other economies.

[Al-Damardash] 'Amr Musa said he expects the negotiations to resume soon. Can you tell us on what he bases his expectation and if there is any sign of such a thing?

[Qaddumi] Our acceptance of the Madrid conference means we accepted the resumption of negotiations. These negotiations have gone on for 22 months and we are still negotiating. There is no alternative but negotiations, because international changes dictate that all parties resort to negotiations for the sake of a comprehensive solution.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Coordination Problems With Jordan

JN0501174394 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 4-5 Jan 94 p 22

[Report by Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Excerpt] Tunisia—Three topics were on the agenda of the PLO Executive Committee meetings over the past two days. These issues are: Relations with Jordan; the stumbling negotiations with the Israelis; and the internal Palestinian course. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, spoke to AKHIR KHABAR following the meetings, which ended Monday [3 January] afternoon.

Regarding relations with Jordan, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The Jordanian and Palestinian sides agreed, during the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on Thursday, to activate the joint coordination committees and to instruct these committees to be practical in their deliberations and to directly deal with the major issues that must be viewed as priorities. He added: Despite the delay in the work of the committees, we believe that it is not too late and that there is a possibility for avoiding such a shortcoming.

'Abd-Rabbuh said: It is obvious that the problem on our part does not lie in our hesitation in or refrain from reaching the highest level of coordination, but in the lack of progress in the talks to end the Israeli occupation of even a part of the Palestinian territory. Any agreement with sisterly Jordan will be useless and cannot be practically applied without ending the occupation. We reached an understanding with our brothers in Jordan that discussing future relations, particularly on the political level, depends on the establishment of a Palestinian entity on Palestinian land and on ending the Israeli occupation. He said: The relationship should be established between two independent entities on an equal footing. He added that the same thing applies to the economic and security issues. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Israel Wants 'To Humiliate' Palestinians

AU0501134094 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1200 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis by Wolfgang Labuhn in Cologne on 5 January; 'Arafat answers in English, with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] My colleague Wolfgang Labuhn had an opportunity this morning to ask Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis when the talks with the Israelis will be continued.

['Arafat] It depends on the Israelis, and not only on the Palestinians. We are now expecting results from the Israelis in this respect. They appear to be insisting on a number of conditions that are far from the Declaration of Principles that we signed at the White House in Washington in September last year. We insist on the implementation of this agreement, on its accurate and honest implementation.

[Labuhn] What conditions has the Israeli side set?

['Arafat] To take one example: According to the Israeli administration, the dimension of Jericho is 712 square kilometers. To start with, they offered us 27 square kilometers, which was then increased to 55 square kilometers. They want to control the access routes and

border crossings, or, in other words, they want to put us into a ghetto or a Bantustan. But who would accept having to live in a Bantustan or a ghetto? The third issue is that the number of Jewish settlers in Gaza is no more than 3,000, and they insist on approximately 40 square kilometers for those 3,000 settlers, whereas the population there totals approximately 1.2 millio.., as you know. Can you imagine that this is fair? Could anyone accept this? Regrettably, I must say that they are demanding unacceptable guarantees. They only want to humiliate the Palestinians, and they do not want to solve problems or make peace with the Palestinians.

[Labuhn] Should these problems be seen as a package, or should they rather be solved step by step?

['Arafat] I prefer to solve them step by step, because we do not want more than the accurate and serious implementation of the agreement.

[Labuhn] In your view, what problem is the most important one?

['Arafat] We are confronted with these problems, and we are ready to discuss them in frank and open talks in the sense of the framework agreement concluded with Israel.

[Labuhn] Israel insists on security measures for its settlers in the occupied territories. Do you understand these concerns?

['Arafat] They have no right to use this as an excuse, because we have accepted that in addition to our own responsibility in these areas, Israel can have full responsibility for their security. So this cannot be an excuse for Israel's position.

[Labuhn] Will the talks with Israel be continued this week?

['Arafat] We hope so.

[Labuhn] When? In a few hours, days, or not before next week?

['Arafat] It seems in a few days.

[Labuhn] The implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement is now lagging three weeks behind the agreed time schedule. When are you hoping to move into your residence in Jericho?

['Arafat] It all depends on how the Israelis treat us, whether they continue maneuvering in order not to have to observe the exact dates.

Paper's Report on 'Arafat-Rabin Deal Denied

LD0501182994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] An official Palestinian source denied the Israeli newspaper AL HAMISHMAR report in its issue today that brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had agreed to Israel's demands concerning the crossing points in exchange for Rabin's approval to expand Jericho's territory.

The official Palestinian source stressed that what AL HAMISHMAR had reported today was totally void of truth and that no contact had been made between Brother President 'Abu-'Ammar and 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah [Israeli Knesset member].

In its issue today, the Israeli newspaper AL HAMISHMAR mentioned that 'Abu-'Ammar had contacted 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah and had asked him to convey to Prime Minister Rabin that the crisis could be settled by negotiations with Rabin's approval to expand Jericho's territory in exchange for 'Arafat's approval of the Israeli demands concerning the crossing points. This was claimed by Israeli Knesset member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, who said that he had conveyed this proposal to Prime Minister Rabin.

Negotiators Urged To 'Stand Fast' on Withdrawal

PM3012162793 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Dec 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Crossings First and Last"]

[Text] If the security of the State of Israel is given utmost priority by Yitzhaq Rabin and his foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, the dignity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories must be at the top of the Palestinian negotiator's priorities both at present and in the future.

We say this because of the conflicting reports coming in from Cairo, regarding the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and their faltering over the question of who should control the crossings leading to Gaza and Jericho.

It is clear that Israel is insisting through its delegation that full control of the crossings remain in the hands of its security forces, and that all it can offer to the Palestinians is a symbolic presence limited to formalities only.

This conflicts with the stipulations of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which talks openly and clearly about a complete withdrawal from these areas and their handover to the Palestinian national authority and the security forces belonging to it.

Israel interprets the agreement as a redeployment of its forces in the Gaza Strip and Jericho—that is, remassing them in areas remote from the overpopulated towns. And it believes that the security of Israeli settlements must remain in the hands of Israeli forces. And it is bans the Palestinian forces from moving close to these settlements or arresting any Israeli settler involved in terrorist actions against Palestinians.

This Israeli interpretation conflicts completely with the Palestinian interpretation, which understands the withdrawal to mean evacuating all Israeli forces from the

Gaza Strip and Jericho, exactly along the lines of the withdrawal from Sinai conducted under the Camp David accords.

If the Palestinians in the occupied territories welcomed the agreement and supported those who signed it, this sudden support was the result of their belief that it would lead to an Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of Palestinian sovereignty over the liberated areas.

And when we talk about Palestinian dignity, we mean stopping all the insults to which the Palestinians are exposed at the crossings at the hands of Israeli security sources, namely body searches, confiscation, and waiting for a long time under a burning sun or in unbearable freezing conditions.

What Israel is proposing in the negotiations is merely an attempt to keep the painful reality as it stands, on the pretext of preventing weapons and "subversives" from being smuggled through the crossing points so as not to threaten Israel's security in the future.

It is difficult for us to understand how the smuggling of weapons to an area like the Gaza Strip can pose a threat to Israel's security when the occupation forces are building an electronic fence along the strip's border.

It is impossible for those whom Israel calls subversives to smuggle tanks or heavy artillery through the crossings, which will be watched by the other parties. What could be smuggled is pistols and rifles, and these are already in abundance in the strip and will be part of the armament of the Palestinian police forces to assume security in the strip and Jericho.

Israel, which has always wagered on rejection, is in a dilemma as a result of the Palestinians' acceptance of the agreement, which is why it is currently trying to extricate itself from this dilemma by putting obstacles in its way, in the hope that the Palestinians will lose their nerve and pull out of the negotiations. For this reason, it refused to withdraw on 13 December. For this reason also, it is making a big crisis out of the crossings issue. We do not believe that the negotiating Palestinian side has one option only, namely to stand fast and to adhere to the only positive aspect in the agreement, that is withdrawal. [sentence as published]

UK's Hurd Meets With Palestinian Representatives

TA0401160594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Jan 94

[Text] A meeting between Palestinian representatives and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at Orient House in East Jerusalem ended a short while ago. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz filed the following report:

[Begin Yokhpaz recording] The meeting between the seven Palestinian representatives—including the PLO ambassador to London—and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd ended without any declaration stating that progress has been made or that Hurd made some contribution to promoting the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Speaking beneath a PLO and a British flag, the British secretary said that the meeting was good and that in it, the parties discussed the future of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Speaking at the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said: Britain plays an important role in the negotiating relations between Israel and the PLO. Asked about progress in the negotiations, 'Ashrawi said: Well, goodwill alone is not sufficient for the continuation of the Israeli-PLO negotiations. We need very serious, concrete, and constructive action in order to make progress. [end recording]

Hurd Promises Funds for Autonomy

TA0501190694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd promised during a tour of the Gaza Strip today that the British would assist in the establishment of the autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and would immediately grant 2' million pounds sterling to the Palestinians and another 70 million pounds sterling in another two years. Our correspondent Matti Amir reports that during the tour, Hurd conferred with Zakariya al-Agha, Fatah leader of the Gaza Strip, and Mansur al-Shawwa, a leading Palestinian in the strip.

Paper Reports 'Strained' PLO-Iraqi Relations

JN0401124294 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 4 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-'AHD—A high-ranking Palestinian source in Amman has said that Iraqi-Palestinian relations are not in good shape because of Iraq's position on the peace process, which opposes the stance of the PLO.

It has been learned that these relations became strained recently after Saddam Husayn offered to let Palestinian troops in Iraq join Iraqi troops, something which angered Yasir 'Arafat and prompted him to delay the move of Palestinian troops from Iraq to Jericho.

PLO Leadership Accepts 'Some Demands' of Palestinians

NC0501164094 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Tunis, Jan 5 (AFP)—The PLO executive committee has accepted some of the demands put forward by a delegation of leading Palestinians towards making the organisation more democratic, Palestinian sources here said Wednesday [5 January].

Delegation head Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has been given full powers to organize a broad dialogue grouping all factions with the aim of uniting the Palestinians, the sources said.

'Abd-al-Shafi, who led bilateral negotiations with Israel before the signing in September of an autonomy accord

by the PLO and the Jewish state, has headed the seven-member delegation holding talks with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and close associates here since Sunday.

The delegation called for the adoption of nine points included in a memorandum signed by 120 prominent Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories and the diaspora last month.

The memorandum calls for more democracy in running PLO affairs and demands a change in the conduct of negotiations with Israel over limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

'Arafat, who has been accused of being autocratic, is yet to comment on the proposals.

The Palestinian source said two of the demands presented to 'Arafat and the executive committee have been rejected, while all the others were likely to be adopted by the organisation.

These two were the proposal to create a high consultative committee of experts with a parallel status to that of the executive committee and the call for forming a supreme authority to guide, direct and follow up the autonomy negotiations with Israel.

Nabil 'Amr, an adviser of the PLO leader, said Tuesday he expected some opposition to the proposal calling for the creation of a consultative standing committee made up of experts that would have similar authority to that of the executive committee.

The question is not in the abundance of new structures, a participant in the executive committee meetings told AFP Wednesday.

"Our aim is to democratise and to make those already existing more efficient and productive," he said.

According to executive committee member 'Ali Ishaq, the body chaired by 'Arafat has approved the reactivation of the PLO Council of Planning which has been crippled for some time by a financial crisis hitting the organisation since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

Officials close to the PLO leader doubt that any result would come out from the democracy debate as they consider the move itself a struggle for power only, rather than a call for real sharing in the decision-making process.

PLO Leadership Agrees to Consultative Body

TA0501182594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Palestinian sources in Tunis have informed our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the delegation of Palestinian figures, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, will meet tonight with PLO Executive Committee members in order to sum up the talks on PLO internal reforms. The figures have expressed their satisfaction with the results of the meetings that have taken place so far. They said that the PLO leadership has agreed, in principle, to set up a special consultative body to support the Executive Committee. A statement on the results of these talks is expected to be issued tomorrow.

Three Senior Fatah Activists in Hebron Resign

TA0501180894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Three senior Fatah activists in the Hebron region have submitted their resignations from their organizational posts in the movement. Our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zuhdah reports that the three are Jibril al-Bakri, Dhiyab al-Sharabati, and Ihsan al-Nazir. According to them, they resigned in protest of the bad internal situation. Our correspondent adds that the three activists held prominent positions in Fatah.

Article Details Lives of Hamas Deportees

TA0101120194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 24 Dec 93 pp 12, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] The suspension of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads' murderous attacks, designed to enable the deportees to return home without delay, ended on Wednesday [22 December] morning. Me'ir Mendelovich, 32, a father of eight children, and Eliyahu Levin, 25, both from Bene Beraq, were murdered while driving through Baytuniya, a town near Ramallah. They were giving the deportees a unique welcoming reception, saturated with Jewish blood.

The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam murder squads—the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—left a leaflet on the scene of the murder. "This was in revenge for the killing of 'Imad 'Aqil, the Hamas commander of Gaza, and for the killing of three Tarqumiyah residents by Jews." Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz, the military commander of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, required no explanations. "I see no particular daring in the murders. They want to harm Jews. They lie in wait in places where they expect to find easy prey, they spot Jews, and they shoot."

Twenty four of the deportees, who over the past year turned out to be members of the Hamas military apparatus, preferred to remain in Lebanon. They will presumably find their niches either in Hizballah operations or in the military apparatuses of Hamas. Defense figures believe that many of those who did return had been instructed and trained at the terrorist academy of Hizballah.

"Hamas remains the same Hamas. We return stronger, with greater support and sympathy among the residents of the territories." This observation was made by Dr. 'Aziz Duwayk, dean of the geography studies at the Hebron University, one of the 197 deportees who were allowed to return to the territories last week. Of these, 65

remained in prison—some for interrogation about ties with Hizballah, others for Hamas-related activities prior to the deportation. About 10 have received administrative detention orders.

Fatah personnel members walked around with long faces this week. They had hoped that Israel would release a few hundred security prisoners, in order to offset the joy of their opposition and to try to stop the erosion of the support for the peace process. (A survey by the Palestinian Center for Research in Nabulus, which was published this week, showed that only 41 percent of the territories residents support the peace agreement, versus 65 percent in September; 38 percent are opposed to the agreement, versus 28 percent in September.) Hamas and their opposition partners are now seeking to take advantage of the deportees' return to create a new momentum for oppositionist activities.

The 17 December 1992 deportation was carried out at the peak of the violent conflict between Hamas and Fatah, but the attitude of the deportees who returned this week was conciliatory toward Fatah, despite the new political reality which followed the Rabin-'Arafat handshake.

"We are opposed to this agreement, but we will express our objection in democratic ways only," Dr. Duwayk stresses. "We will make sure that not a single drop of Palestinian blood is spilled in this struggle. Fraternal infighting goes against our faith, Islam." Referring to press headlines about an elimination list with names of Fatah members, which was allegedly brought back by the deportees, Dr. Duwayk says: "Nonsense. This is not our way."

But violence against Israel will not cease, he adds. Its causes have not changed. "Rabin wants to give us autonomy. We want sovereignty. Therefore, I say thank you to autonomy. Anyway, Rabin wants 'Arafat to be a dictator, because that will ease the way to his goals. A majority of our nation are against the agreement. Therefore, you should remember that Rabin signed an agreement with only one organization out of all the Palestinian organizations. Were I to record history, I would say Israel signed an agreement with one man only—with 'Arafat."

Dr. 'Aziz Duwayk, 45, has seven children. The oldest, Muhammad, is 15, and the youngest, a four-month-old baby girl, was born while he was in exile. He named her "Di'ah"—prayer. In the Marj al-Zuhur camp, Duwayk was one of the deportee spokesmen.

It was an extraordinary camp: There were 88 university students, 30 professors and tutors from territories universities, 11 doctors, 10 engineers, 18 senior religious clerics, 10 liberal arts university graduates. Dr. Salamah, acting president of the Gaza University, was also there. A distinguished human composition, far beyond the average level of the Palestinian street. It is, more or less, the human composition of Hamas.

The camp consisted of several dozen tents. Some were populated by five or six men, while others housed one man only. In the center of the camp, a large tent—10 by 20 meters—was set up to serve as a mosque. Its floor was covered with mats, and a mahrab indicating the direction of prayer, as well as a small podium for the preacher—a different one every week—were built. "Thank God, we had quite enough preachers," Duwayk says, laughing heartily.

Education is one of the most important Hamas values, and most of the deportees' days at Marj al-Zuhur were therefore spent in study. A few days after the deportation, two large tents were set up for that purpose. A large sign over the entrance to one of them proclaimed: "The ink in the pen is stronger than the bullet in the gun."

They had teachers for every subject, plenty of time, and few students in every classroom. It was a university in every respect, and the studies conducted there have gained the recognition of the universities in the territories. Ibrahim Abu-Salim from Ramallah, for instance, completed his Phd dissertation in Marj al-Zuhur. The research, which dealt with the philosophical trends of Islam, was sent to the Sudanese 'Umm Durman University for approval and earned Abu-Salim a Phd.

They studied biology, geography, education, and Islam at the Marj al-Zuhur university. The students had a large library at their disposal, after over 2,000 books were donated by Islamic universities. The library was arranged in a tent with carpet-covered flaps and with a large photograph of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam in the center.

Dr. Duwayk taught geography. "I specifically taught the geography of southern Lebanon, so that the deportees would know on which part of the map they were situated. Later I talked about the geographical conditions of the place. I also taught them topographical orientation and air currents, to help them find the direction of the prayer."

Various other lessons were arranged for nonacademic deportees. Language courses were the most popular. They studied French, English, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and some even took an extended, three-level Hebrew course for beginners, mid-level, and advanced students.

Special professional courses were also launched, teaching electricity, first aid, and even bee breeding. A course taken by all the deportees taught Koran reading and comprehension. Some 350 course and professional training students received graduation diplomas during the one-year deportation at Marj al-Zuhur.

A nine-member supreme committee, chosen in democratic elections by all the deportees, ran the camp's everyday life. In the last weeks, the deportees elected Mahmud Hasan Sham'a from Gaza as camp committee chairman—a honorary appointment given to the oldest deportee. The camp committee had two tents—one for an office and another for gatherings and conferences.

Eleven deported doctors received fellow deportees@in two tents—a clinic and a hospital. A few weeks after the

deportation, local Lebanese villagers also began frequenting the clinic. Medicines were received by special order through the Red Cross.

There was no food shortages. Most was bought in neighboring Lebanese villages, and in addition, the deportees received donations from relief and welfare organizations and Palestinian groups. "Even Fatah people supplied us with food, and there are many Fatah factions in Lebanon. We received donations from everyone, even from 'Arafat's people," Duwayk says. "Hizballah gave us food, too. We were not fussy about the source of assistance."

[Shaqed] What did you eat?

[Duwayk] Rice, macaroni, meat, chicken, vegetables. All kinds of cooked food. Occasionally fruit too.

[Shaqed] Who did the cooking?

[Duwayk] Each in his turn cooked and did chores. I, for instance, cooked majadara, soups, meat, and rice.

The deportees returned with large suitcases filled with clothing items—mainly sports clothes. In the first days of the deportation, they received every conceivable kind of clothing. Summer clothes were sent with the advent of spring. The Red Cross supplied blankets.

Their daily activities were arranged around prayer hours. Even on snowy days, they woke up at 0330 for early morning prayers. "When we washed to purify our bodies for prayer, water would freeze on our hands," Duwayk reveals. "But, thank God, we did it out of love. After the morning prayer, we would gather for special worship, including personal prayers. We prayed to God, calling out loud: God, take us back to our homes. God, please soften Rabin's heart of stone."

After prayers, about one hour was devoted to gymnastics and sports—judo, karate, yoga, jogging, and ball games. The Lebanese donated a few table tennis sets, and a volleyball court was arranged in the camp.

After breakfast, time was set aside was cleaning and tidying. University and other studies began at 0800. They went on, with brief recesses, till the midday prayer, which was followed by a meal. Studies were then resumed till 1600, "after which there was more sports, personal things to attend to, dinner, and then everyone would sit around the TV set and watch the Israeli television newsreel. We saw footage on Hebron and Gaza on the news every day, and the little screen helped us to remain in touch with home. After that, there were gatherings, meetings, conversations, and a night prayer."

Television was not their only link with the world. There were also many radio sets. In addition, they had three cellular phones and a fax machine. "Each morning, we received faxed news from news agencies, as well as a translation of YEDI'OT AHARONOT," Duwayk says.

One cellular telephone was used exclusively by the spokesman, Dr. 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Rantisi, against whom the authorities have just issued a six-month administrative detention order. The dialing was done through a U.S. switchboard. The two other cellular phones were reserved for conversations with relatives. The phones belonged to local villagers, who charged $1.5 per minute.

A news conference was held every afternoon. Telephone interviews were carried out with reporters throughout the world.

"We had parties on religious holidays. Deportees from the Hebron area would prepare knafa (a baked sweet cheese dish), and we would buy sweet foods, particularly pastries, such as baklava. We had a debka [oriental dance] troupe made up of the youngest deportees, which danced at parties. We also had a drama group. In Marj al-Zuhur, we wrote and put up a play called 'Deportation.' The play depicted the first 50 hours of our deportation, which were all agony. We sat opposite the actors and cried."

Have you learned a lesson from the deportation? I asked Dr. Duwayk. He smiled, laughed aloud, and then said: "Hamas is an Islamic movement whose sole purpose is to implement the dictates of Islam. There is no reason for the Hamas stand to change, because the Islam will not change. In Marj al-Zuhur we practiced the 'sabir', patience and forbearance preached by the Islam. And most importantly, the extensive media coverage brought Hamas into every Palestinian house in the territories."

Algeria

FLN Boycotts NDC Political Party Meeting

LD0501205094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Multilateral talks between the National Dialogue Commission [NDC] and political parties resumed today. In this context, the NDC held a meeting today with a number of political parties during which the preliminary draft of the national consensus platform, proposed by the NDC, was studied and discussed. The meeting was attended by the Movement for Democracy in Algeria; the Rally for Culture and Democracy; the Movement of Islamic Society—Hamas; the Islamic Al-Nahdah Movement; and the Constitutional Union, a coalition of 12 political parties. The National Liberation Front [FLN] boycotted the meeting.

Constitutional Union Participates in Meeting

LD0501191994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The Constitutional National Union announced today its participation in the multiparty meeting between a group of parties and the National Dialogue Commission which will be held today and tomorrow at the commission's invitation of the latter.

It is known that the Constitutional National Union, which is composed of 12 political parties, announced its official establishment on 24 December at a news conference held by the representatives of these parties at the headquarters of the Popular Association for Unity and Action.

It is worth pointing out that the Constitutional National Union is based on 10 principles, the most important of which are: adherence to the constitution, the unity of Algeria, the 1 November Declaration, Islam as the state religion, pluralism, and rotation of power.

Security Services Kill Six 'Terrorists'

LD0501195194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Security services said that between 2 January and 4 January they killed six terrorists and detained another 15 in the provinces of Tipaza and Oran.

Citizens Without Legal Status To Be Drafted

LD0501205794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] A statement by the National Defense Ministry informs citizens who do not have legal status that, with respect to the national military service—exemption, deferment, renewal, postponment, or disability—from 15 January they will be drafted immediately upon their apprehension in accordance with the laws in force.

Egypt

Minister Discusses 'Severity' of Tourism Crisis

NC0501201294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Minister of Tourism Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji has expressed optimism about the future of tourism in Egypt. [passage omitted]

At a meeting with a visiting U.S. Congressional delegation today, he reviewed the Tourism Ministry's future policy to revive tourism in Egypt, especially from the United States as an important tourism export market.

Speaking about Egypt's losses due to terrorism, he said Egypt has incurred losses at all levels. He added that these incidents have sharply and directly deepened the tourism crisis in Egypt. He noted that the number of tourists decreased from 3.2 million in 1992 to 2.2 million as of October in 1993. Tourist nights decreased from about 20 million to around 13 million as of October 1993 and tourism revenues dropped from 2.3 billion in 1992 to 1.1 billion dollars as of October 1993. He pointed out that these statistics are serious indications as to the severity of the crisis. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Role Against Terrorism Viewed

NC0501204694 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 3 Jan 94 pp 22-23

[Article by Ahmad Hamrush: "What Will the Army Do in the Face of Terrorism?"]

[Excerpts] In his statement to the defense and national security committee of the People's Assembly, Defense Minister Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi raised an important issue affecting our daily lives—the issue of securing the internal front through coordination with the responsible ministries and services to deal with mounting terrorist activity.

There is no doubt that Egypt has not faced such a disturbing phenomenon in its modern history. Despite all the measures that the police are adopting with courage and devotion, the conditions that produce terrorism still exist, whether internally as a result of economic and social difficulties, the weakness of the political influence of the parties and the popular organizations, and the inability of some services to fulfill their role, particularly in the information field, or externally as a result of interference by some states that support the terrorists with money and political guidance.

Combating and ending terrorism is difficult to accomplish through the security services alone. A studied and integrated plan to group the responsible ministries in a higher council for combating terrorism is needed. [passage omitted]

The call for national dialogue shows the beginning of interest in and appreciation of the need to mobilize the

efforts of all forces that believe in a civilized society and are against terrorism as a method of political action. Until such dialogue, which has caused much argument, takes place, the executive authority must establish this higher council to combat terrorism. This council should include the leaders of the political and party forces in order to have cohesion between the people and the government.

Defense Minister Tantawi's statement came at the appropriate time, because it shows the readiness of the Armed Forces to secure the internal front within the framework of constitutional legitimacy. [passage omitted]

After 20 years of peace following the October war, we feel that the phenomenon of terrorism exercised by groups that falsely call themselves Muslim have begun to represent a danger and threat to the internal front. This prompts us to ask about the role that the Armed Forces can play. Field Marshal Tantawi answered this question when he said that this can take place through coordination with the various ministries and services.

The Armed Forces can provide many services to promote production and develop the services. But this must be done as part of a studied government plan. Nevertheless, coordination between the police and the Armed Forces has become necessary to raise the standard of performance against terrorism.

I read a statement by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi in AL-MUSAWWAR magazine in which he said some policemen are trained by the Army. This is good. But some manifestations indicate that either this is being done on a limited basis or that it is not part of a comprehensive scientific plan to raise the standard of the police force. [passage omitted]

This is not a call to give the Armed Forces a bigger role over the other political, legislative, and executive authorities. This is a call for coordination among all the forces that live in Egypt within the framework of a civilized society based on democracy and human rights.

Two Nasirite Party Members Arrested

NC0601075294 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] On Saturday [1 January] evening, the State Security Intelligence Department arrested Salah al-Hakash, secretary of the Nasirite Party in al-Daqahliyah Governorate, on charges of distributing leaflets inciting hatred of the regime. Al-Hakash was referred to a prosecutor, who decided to keep him in custody for two weeks.

Meanwhile, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, a member of the Nasirite Party committee in al-Daqahliyah, continues to be detained on charges of inciting the students of al-Mansurah University to demonstrate to protest the semester system.

Security Officers Accused of Torture

NC0501122794 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Dec 93 p 9

[Text] The State Security Investigation Department has escalated its oppressive campaign against the Muslim Brothers in al-Jizah. Three Muslim Brothers were detained in the past few days. They are Jamal 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Ashri, from al-Kunayyisah; Majdi 'Azzuz, from Imbabah; and Shawqi Ghazi. The latter was given electric shocks, sustained brain damage, and is still being treated at a mental hospital. The three were subjected to frightful torture at the hands of the state security investigation officers of the Jabir Ibn-Hayyan department, particularly Colonel Muhammad al-Dib, Major Sahrif Sirri, and 'Adil 'Abd-al-Rahman.

The latest act of torture involved Jamal 'Ashri last Wednesday and Thursday. He was arrested after an exhibition on Bosnia-Herzegovina was canceled. He was slashed and sensitive parts of his body were shocked. The officers torturing him asked him to work as an informer for them and provide them with information on the number of Muslim Brothers and their activity in al-Jizah. They threatened to hold him in custody if he refused to respond to these demands.

'Ashri reported the incident to the Egyptian Human Rights Organization.

Recognition of Muslim Brotherhood Urged

NC0501124094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Dec 93 p 21

[Article by Dr. Ahmad al-Malat: "Officials: Isn't It High Time You Sought Righteousness?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Husni Mubarak has said on more than one occasion that he wants a dialogue with the various national and political forces. This statement pleases us. He recently told the French newspaper LE MONDE that "there is an Islamic movement that prefers political struggle to violence, that this movement joined certain social establishments, and that it has won the elections in certain vocational associations, such as the doctors, engineers, and lawyers associations and others."

If this is the president's approach, particularly his emphasizing that the Islamic movement does not favor violence, why do the security agencies and the disciples of the Vanguard Organization [an organization of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's era] insist on branding the Muslim Brotherhood as violent and extremist? Why is there this insistence that every bad thing that befalls this good country comes from under the Muslim Brotherhood cloak, as a former president once said? Officials: Don't you feel the direction of the wind coming from the mouth of the leader. If the president's wish is sincere, and we think it is, then this wish is a primary duty and must be fulfilled.

It is the truth that is almost bursting forth from the sick hearts in their war against Islam. We can hardly finish

reading a statement when another slaps us on the face, kindling sorrow in our hearts over the loss of a Muslim's chivalry, honesty, and clear conscience. A few days ago at the College of Economics and Political Science, the education minister said: "There is a group that exploits religion to serve their own narrow political interests. If this group takes power, its program would be to hang those who uphold certain views." Yes, this is what he said, as if the advocates of Islam's tolerance, guidance, and purity are executioners and bloodthirsty. "It is a grievous thing that issues from their mouths as a saying. What they say is nothing but falsehood." [Koranic verse]

ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine, noted for its war against the Muslim Brotherhood, which was forced to speak the truth after it became clear to everyone that the Muslim Brotherhood won more than 47 seats and the National Front won 56 seats in the Lawyers Association's by-elections. The Nasirist newspaper AL-'ARABI said that the Muslim Brotherhood won 40 seats, compared with the 60 seats won by the National Front. I don't know what this National Front is.

If we accept these results, even though they are not true, it means that 40 percent of the lawyers voted for the Muslim Brotherhood. What more do you expect? It is an undeniable force, even though you do not recognize it. Is it in the interest of the homeland to cooperate with this large bloc of the people's representatives in the highest echelons or to antagonize it and conceal its reality and tangible efforts from the people?

Many civilized countries give the ruling authority to parties that wins less than 40 percent of the vote. The Zionist entity, your new ally, has been ruled by the Likud or the Labor Party with a smaller ratio. In the United States, power is exchanged between presidents: A president hands over power to his successor calmly and without uproar—and even congratulates him on his victory. Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton are examples of this. When will you learn?

The real results of the Lawyers Association by-elections in the governorates are known to the officials. These results are the real reason that the elections in Cairo were postponed. More that 56 percent of lawyers registered to vote in the general assembly elections, and the authorities realized beyond a shadow of doubt the overwhelming support for the Muslim Brotherhood.

The pretext of "you disturbed the water where I am drinking" is a story without end. It is the conflict between right and wrong that will continue until Doomsday, as our prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, truthfully said.

Tell me: Does the public prosecutor have the right to suspend any elections indefinitely? Does the chairman of the judicial committee supervising the elections have the right to take such action? This is a breach of law and legality. We deem the Egyptian judiciary to be far above sinking in this stinking quagmire. Tell me: Can anyone stop the People's Assembly or the Consultative Council elections by submitting a notification to the public prosecutor that claims that there is a mistake in the voter rolls?

The Muslim Brotherhood does not fear voter turnout. Indeed, it contributed to the revival of voter participation. Recent elections show that the turnout is double what is used to be.

When the Brotherhood opposed Law No. 100, which requires a quorum of 50 percent of the members to convene an association's general assembly, it did not do so because it was afraid of losing seats. The Brotherhood opposed the law because it objected to the poor voter turnout throughout the country.

The Muslim Brotherhood took it upon itself to encourage people to participate in elections. Its success in the Lawyers Association elections illustrates its efforts in this connection. Indeed, we contend that the greater the number of voters, the greater the share of Muslim Brotherhood candidates.

The Asyut University Faculty Club elections prove what we say: More than 85 percent of the teaching staff voted. Our respected brother, Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, the club's chairman, won 80 percent of the vote, greatly exceeding the number votes obtained by all other candidates. Are university professors terrorists? Do they encourage extremism and teach it to our young students? If this were the case for the cream of our men and scholars, what would happen to Egypt? People: is there not a sensible man left among you?

If we add what happened in the Lawyers Association elections to what, God willing, is likely to happen in other associations, particularly in the faculty elections in Asyut and other places where free and fair elections are held, we arrive at this question: Isn't it time for the authorities to revise their policy? How can they deprive the representatives of more than 40 percent—a ratio they themselves admit—of the people their formal right to express their views? How can they deny free people recognition?

The Egyptian Government is trying to drive 'Arafat—claiming that he represents the Palestinians and the PLO—to conclude a peace deal with the Zionists, bloodthirsty cannibals that they are, who killed the prophets, displaced an entire nation, usurped its land, and turned its people into refugees.

The government is calling on the Sudanese Government to conclude a peace agreement with the rebels in the south who are seeking to separate the south from the mother country in order to establish a non-Muslim, pagan-Christian homeland.

Wouldn't it be better for the government to extend its hand to those who seek to make Egypt prosperous and proud and add strength to Islam?

Officials: Do you want it to become another Algeria, where innocent blood will be shed? We assure you that

we do not want that. We believe what the impeccable Koran taught us: to deal with people with wisdom and good counsel. The people know the difference between food and bait and will not swallow your bait.

Both of us stand before the [ballot] box that does not lie—the free, honest box, the box that exposes all defects. We are like two racehorses, and you must accept the facts. The future, God willing, belongs to Islam, whether you like it or not. "The believers shall rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom He will, and He is exalted in Might, Most Merciful." [Koranic verse]

Hopefully you will hear and make the others who insist on shutting their ears to the resounding declaration of righteousness from the minarets hear as well. Or are their hearts under lock and key?

I can only remind them of the words of God, may He be blessed and exalted: "Has not the story reached you, of those who went before you—of the people of Noah, and 'Ad, and Thamud—and of those who came after them? None knows them but God. To them came apostles with clear signs but they put their hands up to their mouths, and said: We do deny the mission on which ye have been sent." [Koranic verse]

Minister Comments on Impact of GATT Agreement

NC0601104694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, has emphasized that the Egyptian economy has between 5 to 10 years to adjust to the GATT agreement, as part of the Uruguay round. He added: The measures we have adopted within the economic reform program are more strict than those stipulated under the GATT agreement.

Speaking yesterday at a meeting of the permanent committee that is following up on the GATT talks, the minister stressed the need to improve the quality of Egyptian products to be competitive with similar imported products both in the local and external markets. He added: Liberalizing trade is inevitable, but under this liberalization we will protect our products from illegal trade. He pointed out that the agreement made during the Uruguay round of talks, which lasted for seven years, will not result in any additional burdens that the Egyptian economy cannot handle. He added that the commitments on Egypt resulting from the liberalization of international trade are much less than those burdening other developing nations.

The committee will complete a study on the effects of the recent agreement on the Egyptian economy in the next few days.

Ministerial Group Reviews Economic Progress

NC0501155994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The ministerial economic group held a meeting today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi during which it continued to assess the second stage of the economic reform program and the steps for reforming the financial structure of the business sector companies by expanding the ownership base by selling some company shares to the people and employees.

Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, stated that the review showed that the rate of inflation has decreased to less than 10 percent, that the exchange rate of foreign currencies has remained stable, and that the budget deficit has not increased beyond the target limit.

He added that the review of the balance of payments showed that the foreign currency reserves held by the Egyptian Central Bank have increased to $16 billion.

The ministerial economic group also discussed a number of measures to increase the rates of development and investments.

Italian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

Holds Talks With Mubarak, Musa

NC0501175094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he and Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta discussed international issues of common interest, developments in the Middle East, the peace process, and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries. He said they also discussed the situation in many areas and bilateral relations. Musa was speaking at a joint news conference held with the Italian foreign minister following their talks today.

Musa noted first that President Husni Mubarak received the Italian foreign minister this morning.

The Italian foreign minister said he had the honor of meeting President Mubarak and left with the impression that the president is determined to achieve peace in the area. He noted that the Egyptian-Italian talks covered developments in the area, the peace process, and the situation in the Gulf region.

He paid tribute to the effort to achieve Middle East peace and expressed Italy's hope that the efforts will achieve their goals, especially in this vital region. He said he hopes a Palestinian solution will be achieved despite the obstacles.

He said they discussed Somalia and noted that he will discuss this problem and achieving security and stability there when he meets U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Brussels on Monday.

He explained that Italy realizes the importance of solving the Somali problem before the UN forces withdraw next March to prevent anarchy.

Andreatta added that Italy, which currently chairs the European Conference on Security and Cooperation, submitted a plan to increase cooperation with the Arab states. It included granting observer's status to Egypt, Morocco, and Algeria.

The Italian foreign minister said he asked Foreign Minister Musa, in his talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who is scheduled to visit Cairo on 16 January, to include the issue of increasing European cooperation with Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco.

He added that he and Musa also discussed bilateral relations. He said that despite the economic difficulties facing Italy, it will continue to provide assistance for development projects in Egypt.

On Bosnia, the Italian foreign minister said that despite the European Union's efforts, no agreement has been reached among the three parties to solve the problem. This has prompted the European countries to consider withdrawing their forces from Bosnia in an attempt to pressure the three parties to accept a peaceful solution to the problem.

The Italian foreign minister explained Italy's views on the GATT Agreement. He emphasized that it will free international trade and will not work at the expense of the developing countries. It will open markets to the products of the developing world, especially as tariffs will be reduced by 50 percent.

Commenting on this issue, Foreign Minister Musa said that while international cooperation in international trade must be established, the talks in the Uruguay round took place mainly among the developed countries to serve their own interests and against the interests of the developing countries in some fields, particularly agricultural and food products.

He said the situation demands considering the interests of the developing countries and assisting them in a specific period to reform their economies and increase their production to enable them to compete.

Musa concluded the news conference, saying that in such circumstances, the agreement works in favor of the rich countries. He called for cooperation between the developing and developed countries to achieve the interests of both parties.

Leaves Cairo

NC0501182494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta left Cairo this evening at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Italian minister met President Husni Mubarak and held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. [passage omitted]

Further on Disappearance of Libyan Dissident

Interior Ministry Forms Search Teams

NC0601075194 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Jan 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Egyptian Interior Ministry briefed the Arab Human Rights Organization [AHRO] on the results of the searches for and investigations into the disappearance of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, who was reported missing more than three weeks ago.

After meeting with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi yesterday, AHRO Secretary General Muhammad Fa'iq said that the Interior Ministry has formed 10 search teams to find decisive information about al-Kikhya's whereabouts. The Investigations are continuing. Fa'iq said that he believed the Egyptian security authorities are showing real concern about al-Kikhya's whereabouts. Fa'iq said the Interior Minister told him that President Mubarak is personally interested in this issue and that Mubarak is regularly updated on the progress of the investigations.

Fa'iq will leave for Beirut in two days to attend the extraordinary meeting of the AHRO Executive Committee on 7 January. The Executive Committee will discuss the details of al-Kikhya's disappearance, unravel the ambiguity surrounding his fate, and define the steps that should be taken to secure his safety. Fa'iq said the AHRO will discuss the formation of a higher national committee to secure the safety of al-Kikhya and the safety of political refugees in general.

Wife Arrives in Cairo

NC0501222294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Mrs. Baha al-Kikhya, wife of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared from a Cairo hotel about three weeks ago, arrived in Cairo this evening.

Her visit to Cairo [words indistinct] comes in response to a request from the Egyptian authorities, which want to unravel the mystery of the disappearance of the [former] Libyan minister and former delegate to the United Nations.

Libyan Role Assessed

PM0501145694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 94 p4

[Unattributed interview with Muhammad Jibril, Cairo representative of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are your justifications for accusing the Libyan regime of kidnapping [Mansur] al-Kikhya [Libyan opposition leader and former foreign minister]? Do you have any proof or material evidence to support your claim?

[Jibril] First of all I admit that we do not have any material evidence that would expose to the world the responsibility of the regime's agents for the abduction, but let me ask: As al-Kikhya is one of the most prominent people opposed to the current regime in Libya, who would have an interest in his disappearance? As al-Qadhdhafi has publicly said that he intends to liquidate the opposition, how is he going to achieve that without pursuit?

There is another important point which must be mentioned. It is the Libyan regime's black record of pursuing and liquidating opponents. Its agents have committed 23 attacks on Libyan opposition members living in European capitals, resulting in the martyrdom of most of them.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Have you received any direct threats from the Libyan authorities?

[Jibril] I have personally received dozens of threats from the regime's agents. They have told my family that their arm will reach me soon. Not to mention the official threats to all the Libyan opposition at home and abroad.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you feel that there was any Egyptian failure in connection with the disappearance of al-Kikhya?

[Jibril] I strongly deny even the slightest direct or indirect Egyptian role in the puzzle of al-Kikhya's disappearance, but I do believe that, in the event an agreement is signed with Egypt for the extradition of criminals, the Libyan regime would not hesitate to claim (falsely) that Egypt extradited al-Kikhya.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How are you currently handling developments related to the al-Kikhya incident?

[Jibril] We are in continual daily contact with the relevant Egyptian authorities, and they are doing their best to solve the disappearance riddle.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Would the Libyan regime return al-Kikhya if, as you believe, he was kidnapped?

[Jibril] I rule that out completely, of course.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Libya has officially denied any connection with the al-Kikhya incident.

[Jibril] We expected that, after 10 days of official silence. We are used to such lies and games.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you have any information about a request by the Libyan regime asking Arab and European states to hand over opposition members?

[Jibril] Yes, al-Qadhdhafi has asked that of Egypt and other states. He even made the improvement of relations with any state conditional on their handing over the opposition members.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe that the measures for guarding Libyan opposition members in Egypt are good?

[Jibril] Before the normalization of Egyptian-Libyan relations there was a strict guard for those opposed to al-Qadhdhafi but that was relaxed after al-Qadhdhafi promised the Egyptian authorities not to harm the opposition members living in Egypt.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But could one say that Egypt has frozen the activities of the Libyan opposition in Egypt or that it has imposed restrictions on the movement of opposition members?

[Jibril] The restrictions on the Libyan opposition's activities were confined to the closure of their information offices and discontinuation of their coordination meetings, after the normalization of relations. But Egypt has not asked or forced any opposition member to leave the country. We hope that the Libyan political opposition will move from Europe and the United States to Egypt and the Arab states adjacent to Libya.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about the Libyan opposition at home?

[Jibril] Those opposed to the regime at home face the severest kinds of torture and pursuit. Suffice it to say that there are about 3,000 political detainees in Libyan prisons.

AL-WAFD Editorial Views Situation in Yemen

NC0601070794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—AL-WAFD says the deteriorating political and economic conditions in Yemen threaten pan-Arab security in this vital area on the southern approach to the Red Sea and are causing great frustration throughout the Arab nation. The paper says that it is a shame that hopes for Arab unity are foundering in this crucial Arab region.

In its Thursday [6 January] editorial, the paper, which is a mouthpiece of the opposition al-Wafd Party, links the bread demonstrations, which occurred amid an atmosphere filled with pessimism and disappointment, and the impending failure of unity, which came about after many years of struggle by the northern and southern parts of Yemen.

The paper notes the repercussions of political differences between the two conflicting leaders, 'Ali Salih and Salim al-Bid, on the political and economic situation in the country. It adds that the differences have reached the point of threatening separation and loss of unity.

The paper expresses hope that the Yemeni people will heal their political wounds and preserve the unity of their country. It also expresses hope that, for the sake of the Yemeni people, the views will converge and the rift will not increase so that the Yemeni people can deal with their economic problems and sail to the shore of safety.

Coptic Pope on Vatican's Ties With Israel

NC0501131494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—His Beatitude Pope Shanudah, pastor of the Coptic Church in Egypt, stated that the Vatican is a state and not merely a church. He added that the pope only represents the Catholic Church and that all other churches remain outside its policy. He said: As far as we are concerned, we have well-known disagreements with the Jews.

These remarks were made in an interview in AL-MUSAWWAR magazine that will be published Friday, 7 January. The pope was commenting on the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel.

Pope Shanudah said that the establishment of ties between the Vatican and Israel does not constitute a reconciliation between the Jews and Christians. If the Jews want to be absolved of the blood of Christ, they have to believe in him, Shanudah said.

We will not go to Jerusalem unless we all go together, he said, adding that reports about visits by Coptic tourists to Jerusalem are untrue and merely [word indistinct]. We are still preventing Copts from visiting Jerusalem, he affirmed.

Asked about his opinion of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, Shanudah said that it is the first step and could be followed by many other steps leading to the realization of the Palestinian dream of building a homeland. What is happening now are merely steps toward a solution.

The pope said that the principle of the balance of powers does not work when Israel has nuclear weapons and the other states in the region do not.

We do not fear the establishment of a Middle Eastern market because the Arab world and Egypt have many capabilities and do not suffer from lack of manpower, intelligence, or technology.

Shanudah added: We do not fear extremist thought, but we are against violence as a way of spreading ideas and forcing them on the people.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Discusses UK Relations

LD0501135994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih received in succession this morning at his office at the ministry Arab and African ambassadors accredited to Khartoum.

The meeting discussed numerous Arab and African issues of mutual interest.

Dr. Abu-Salih gave the ambassadors a detailed explanation on the background of the recent developments of Sudanese-British relations in addition to the reasons that resulted in expelling the British ambassador from Khartoum.

Abu-Salih revealed the improper conduct of the British ambassador, which obstructed the development of relations between the two countries. He pointed out that the decision to expel the ambassador was aimed at putting relations between the two countries in their correct framework.

Commentary Criticizes UK Ambassador's Tenure

EA0501130094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Jan 93

["Political commentary"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O heroic Sudanese people:

When Britain sent Peter Streams as its ambassador to Sudan, he felt the greatness of his responsibility in being sent to a rebellious country, one that was difficult to shackle since it had emerged from the well into which it had been thrown by its own abilities. Streams was determined to equip himself with [word indistinct] of his predecessors, (Ford), Kitchener, Wingate, Gordon and Slatin.

He drew from his fertile imagination [word indistinct] entry into Khartoum enveloped in the mantle of history and riding haughtily in a strong saddle and surrounded by the crowds, disbursing before him gifts and presents to the [?poor] [words indistinct].

Why not? For he is a descendant of the resident of the first palace and a man of action and will, in what they call the Third World. Thus, the foundations of the British Embassy were weaker than the ambassador's dreams [words indistinct].

His excellency the ambassador began the battle having preceded it with a media campaign of defamation. It was circulated at gatherings that his blessed advent would put an end to the government of the National Salvation Revolution and would arrange its end. The honor of the English nobility does not permit the erasure of anything they have written with their own pens, and no culture or

civilization could be (?better) than what they had. Politicians should not dismiss those who are close to them, and their beloved ones should not be left out of ministerial positions.

The British ambassador led an active campaign to discourage Western ambassadors from attending the country's celebrations, marking the fourth anniversary of the revolution, so as not to give the government any legitimacy, according to Streams. He promised them they would wait and see the death of the revolution as a result of his efforts. The British ambassador was the most frequent visitor to the camps of the displaced persons. He would knock on their doors before dawn prayers, when they undress in the afternoon and after the second evening prayers [salat al-isha]. He shed tears at the demonstrations of misery and wretchedness. He [word indistinct] the haphazard housing like the poet in the days of ignorance. He described the lake of the Jabal Awliya Dam as the heart of the desert. He described the planning of new towns and town quarters as deportation of supporters of a party he named which used to have cordial relations with his leadership.

Ambassador Peter Streams expressed his readiness to amend the itinerary of the EC delegation to divert it to what he thought would be displeasing to them. He wanted to influence the delegation's reports, which he believed might otherwise be useful to his enemy, Sudan. The British ambassador persevered in writing fabricated reports to such an extent that he established a particular image in the minds of the recipients of his reports, in addition to their media. He was thus afraid that the image would change every time a British delegation's visit was imminent, out of his fear that the delegation might see the truth and discover his lies. We see him using one of the important loopholes of British politics, separating religion from the state, and the call for secularism in government and safeguards against the influence of faith.

He wanted to plug a loophole of interest to hiZ, namely the lack of clarity in his patched up reports. He went in a rush to the speaker of the Transitional Assembly, and told him, making it almost an order, that Streams should be the host of the archbishop of Canterbury, that is, the Anglican Church. He wanted to be host to him in his own house and to be the one to draw up the visit's programs and meetings—otherwise the visit would have to be canceled.

He seemed to want to put the government in the embarrassing position of acceptance or rejection. He obviously reckoned that he would win the round. When he saw that the government would not concede part of its sovereignty, he rushed off to Britain [words indistinct] and that Sudan was imposing restrictions on the archbishop's visit, fixing his program, and refusing to allow the Sudanese Episcopal Church to be host to him. Moreover the British Embassy was more deserving of his [word indistinct] in the August presence of Peter Streams.

He claimed that Sudan was shutting the door in the face of the visit. However, British wisdom pushed the archbishop into Sudan through the back door (?to be the guest of) [word indistinct] the agent rebels. Thus the visit had to take place according to the wishes of Great Britain and not according to the wishes of Sudan. In this way the aging empire struck the final wedge in Western credibility, which had been filling the world with talk of freedoms, human rights, democracy, and the separation of religion and state. As for freedom: Look at its creation of the Zionist entity in the Arab land. Human rights are being practiced in Bosnia, with Britain's support. As for democracy, they are opposed to it unless it gives birth to what they love, and there is much proof of this.

As for the separation of religion and the state, this is what Peter Streams, the British ambassador to Sudan, has done. If the separation is real, then what business does the embassy have in the archbishop's visit when the embassy is the state? What business does it have with the (?Episcopal) church and its parishioners? Why should the visit become political, tarnishing the name of Sudan as is being done by that Jewish radio in London? Why was the visit directed to the zone of military and political conflict where there are no civilian citizens? Is it for the defeated rebellion to present its demands for arms from the archbishop at a time when so many southerners have taken refuge in their homeland in the north? When did the leaders of the rebellion abandon the atheistic communist influence and forget the era of the manifesto [as heard] and become apostles of Jesus Christ?

But all this is nothing more than a lack of capability and defeat, which destroyed those who were seeking support for a crusade, as they suggested to the archbishop, while continuing to fight among themselves as a result of the struggle for leadership and interests, ethnic interests and the rancor of desperate souls.

Pope John Paul was right when he came to Khartoum and received a great welcome from its people. He met his followers and prayed with them safely into the night—yet in other Christian countries he is surrounded by armored glass. He was indeed a friend of Sudan.

As for Ambassador Streams, he should (?remember) Kordofan. How it managed to extinguish the lives of a whole army in one hour—it was led by Kitchener [words indistinct]. Remember the iron sword which reached the neck of the sacred General Gordon [word indistinct] on that day of liberation in 1885, and left so much grief in the heart of the foggy capital.

Had Peter looked to history it would have told him the truth. But he did not, preferring to send fabricated reports about the Sudanese people. That is why he is returning to Great Britain after having lost his bid. He has not succeeded in what he promised his fellow ambassadors concerning changing the Sudanese regime. He has revealed a lie which was earlier concealed—the lie of separating religion from the state. This was urged so much by Britain, and repeated by its parrots. The people

of Islam must rule their life. The Sudanese people should thank God for the merit of our predecessors. The British Embassy will continue to be a symbol of contacts between peoples in equal measure, like other embassies, that is, if its people want to have contacts without conditions, arrogance and conspiracy. Sudan covets nothing from Britain because it is able to assess Britain's situation and the notions of the past that it suffers from, as well as the problems of its complicated present—being overpowered by America and influenced by the Jews.

Long live the revolution, with its bright and dignified banners on the brown masts of Sudan. Long live the unoppressed people [words indistinct]. God is great and dignity to Sudan.

Factions To Form 'Government in Exile'

NC0501181994 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p 15

[Report by 'Abdallah Kamal]

[Text] The Sudanese opposition factions have agreed to form a government in exile to be headed by Faruq Abu-'Isa, chairman of the Arab Lawyers Federation. Lieutenant General Fathi Muhammad 'Ali al-Muqim assumes the post of president.

The Sudanese factions distributed the ministerial portfolios among themselves and without publicity in order not to cause new problems among them. The arrangement agreed upon recently will prepare the way for an expanded meeting in which the names that occupy what is called "the grouping committee" [hay'at al-tajammu'] will be announced.

President on Independence, Foreign Hostility

LD0501142894 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the republic, has described the celebrations of independence day as something that should continue and should be strengthened.

In his meeting this morning with the media leaders, he said that the revolution's serious work to implement the principles of independence was what instigated others to adopt a hostile attitude in their dealings with Sudan, a matter which instigated us to be even more committed to our independence. In this context he pointed out that opening al-Tahadi [defiance] road was a confirmation of independence.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir stressed the need for numerous similar great projects in order to get Sudan out of the state of inherited poverty. He stressed the importance of constructing al-Hamdab dam, which will provide 1.250 million mw of electricity in addition to irrigation water. [passage omitted]

Opposition Issues Statements on Independence Day

NC0601122494 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Jan 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Excerpts] The office of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] leader has issued a statement saying that this year's independence anniversary comes while all of Sudan is suffering under the yoke of al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front, shackled by all sorts of restrictions that conflict with this great anniversary and make independence lose its true meaning.

The statement says that oppression, coercion, displacement, imprisonment, and torture are the main characteristics dominating the people of Sudan. The regime is also fanning the flames of the civil war, which it falsely calls jihad, and flagrantly encroaching on the rights of the Sudanese in ways that the Sudanese people have never experienced before, even during the era of colonialism. [passage omitted]

In a similar statement, the Ummah Party said the independence anniversary comes at a time when the military regime in Khartoum, despite international condemnation for human right violations, is continuing the oppression, pursuit, physical liquidation, and torture of its opponents. The statement said the regime is continuing to fan the flames of the civil war, which is a scourge that is crushing citizens in the south.

Democratic Grouping Notes Grain Shortage

NC0601112694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Jan 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] The Democratic National Grouping has issued a statement emphasizing that the Sudanese people have triumphed because of the will and unity of the people. The statement added that Sudan, which became an independent state on 1 January 1956, is also capable of defeating the forces of darkness, regaining its freedom, and rebuilding a democratic state.

The statement noted that the 38th anniversary of independence comes at a time when there is a 60-percent shortage of grain in the country, something that is subjecting more than 10 million Sudanese to the threat of death from starvation. Furthermore, the lives of millions of Sudanese in the north and central part of the country are threatened by fatal epidemics, including malaria. The statement pointed out that this year's independence celebration must be an occasion for the grouping to ponder its future steps in a spirit of solidarity and unity to regain the freedom of Sudan.

Protests Sale of Public Enterprises

NC0601115894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Jan 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] The National Democratic G.ouping [NDG] has denounced the Sudanese Government's decision to sell state public utilities to hypocritical pro-regime merchants. A statement issued by the NDG's Information Committee said that the Sudanese regime has not been content with imposing high taxes on the people to overcome its acute economic crisis. It has started to sell the Sudanese people's remaining vital utilities, such as the government's tannery and Sudanese Airways.

The statement denounced the government's intention to sell the prisons in Omdurman, Kabar, and Port Sudan to complement its previous plans. The statement stressed that these utilities are public properties that should not be disposed of without the consent of the freely elected representatives of the people. The statement warned everyone against submitting tenders to buy these properties, stressing that the sale contracts would be null and void and that the ownership of these properties would revert to the Sudanese people once the regime is toppled.

Minister Says Eritrea Filed No Complaint

EA0501201994 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1800 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The Sudan did not receive any official note from the Eritrean Government on the statement attributed to Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki on the infiltration of hostile elements into his country across the Sudanese border, the foreign minister, Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, said.

Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular forum, Abu-Salih reiterated that the Sudan and Eritrea maintain strong and fraternal relations, pointing out that the two countries ties have been found [as heard] on strong principles. He said the Sudan had extended continuous support to the Eritrean liberation struggle till the country achieved independence, and that the Sudan was among the first countries who supported Eritrea as an independent state.

The foreign minister went on say that the Sudan now hosts half a million Eritreans. Less than half of them are living in nine camps under the supervision of the Sudanese Refugees Administration. The refugees camps house refugees from all colors of the political spectrum, the foreign minister said, stressing that the refugees are not allowed to exercise any form of political activity. Abu-Salih indicated that the Sudan provides 75 percent of the needs of the Eritrean refugees while the international community extends only 25 percent of their requirements, calling for the conclusion of a tripartite agreement between the governments of the Sudan and Eritrea and the UNHCR to organize the voluntary repatriation of the Eritrean refugees.

Series Sets Stage for GCC Summit

94AE0055A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
19, 20, 21, 22 Dec 93

[Four-part article by Sulayman Nimr: "Riyadh's Gulf Summit Files; Regional Dangers and How To Deal With Them; 'Defense and Deterrence' Summit; Arab Situation and Peace Process Developments; Bilateral Meetings and Border Issues"]

[19 Dec pp 1, 4]

[Text] Riyadh—When leaders of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states meet to discuss Gulf cooperation in Riyadh tomorrow, they will find that the titles of the files that they will peruse and discuss are not different from the titles of files of summits past. The issues, which will be discussed by the six leaders, are the same old issues that are discussed ordinarily in all important Gulf meetings. These issues are: regional conditions, relations with Iran and Iraq, Arab conditions in light of the latest peace process developments, and economic, defense, and security cooperation issues.

Regarding regional conditions, the Gulf continues to be worried by its two big neighbors, Iraq and Iran. Problems with these two countries remain unresolved. With the continued presence of Saddam Husayn's regime, Iraq will continue to represent to Gulf people a source of danger, which they have not yet found out how to repel. The Gulf is more worried by the fact that the Iraqi regime has not fallen and that it has survived despite the economic and political embargo and despite the destruction of whatever remaining sophisticated armament capabilities it had than by the border incidents Iraq fabricates with Kuwait from time to time.

What escalates this worry is the fact that this year, which will end in a few days, has seen political and economic breaches of the embargo imposed on Iraq, as in the case of the return of Turkish diplomats to Iraq and of Turkey's call for lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq. What is more important is that despite the unified Gulf policy and position vis-a-vis Iraq and its regime, the State of Qatar has held separate contacts with Iraq. The latest such contact was the visit paid by the Qatari deputy chief of staff to Baghdad and his meeting with President Saddam Husayn at the beginning of this month. This visit has enraged Kuwait which, it has been learned, threatened not to hold any meetings with Qatar's leadership during the summit. But Gulf contacts have managed to pacify matters and Qatar has issued an official statement characterizing the Qatar deputy chief of staff's visit to Baghdad as "private."

The fact that Saddam Husayn's regime has not fallen despite the embargo, failure of the wager that Iraqi opposition would succeed in toppling the regime, and political and economic breaches of the embargo against Iraq will undoubtedly motivate the Gulf states to consider future conditions vis-a-vis Iraq. Even though the Gulf states are not expected to reconsider the Iraq boycott resolutions, a fait accompli exists and the Gulf states cannot ignore the effect of its continued presence on their security. Neither can they ignore the dangers this fait accompli poses nor the fact that they must learn how to confront and deal with it.

There is no doubt that the Gulf leaders will review these developments in the Iraqi issue and will exchange views on future conditions in Iraq, without offering any concession on the continued boycott against the current regime.

It seems that Iran, the other fundamental part of the Gulf formula, will continue to be one of the concerns that worry the region, even though some Gulf states are tied to it by good bilateral relations that have developed this year. But neither developed bilateral relations between Iran on the one hand and Qatar and Kuwait on the other nor the tour Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati made to the region last May have alleviated the Gulf's general concern about Iran and its policy in the region. The main reason is the continued Iranian-UAE [United Arab Emirates] crisis over the three UAE islands (the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu-Musa islands) and Iran's intensification of this crisis by appointing a governor for Abu-Musa island and by refusing to enter into direct negotiations with Abu Dhabi to resolve the islands' issue.

Riyadh's Gulf summit will deliberate on and discuss the Iranian-UAE crisis to explore the possibilities and likelihood of developing a solution to this crisis, which has reflected in turn on the Iranian-Gulf relations generally.

In this regard, it is not expected that one or more Gulf states will mediate between Abu Dhabi and Tehran because the UAE rejects such mediation in order to assert that the position taken toward its three islands is a collective Gulf position.

Informed Gulf sources have said that the UAE insists on direct negotiations with Iran to resolve the islands issue and that it wants absolutely no Gulf mediation.

In view of the Gulf's continued concern about the two big neighbors, Iraq and Iran, the GCC states find that they have to agree on a political and security plan to deal with this security and defense concern.

At the security and defense levels, the Gulf states launched in the past two years plans to bolster their military capabilities and they have concluded weapons deals valued at several billion dollars. Some states, like Kuwait, have concluded military treaties with major powers in the new world order to underline their responsibility to protect Kuwait from any military adventure. There is no doubt that the GCC states will carry on with their policy to bolster their military capabilities while focusing on joint defense cooperation. But how will the regional dangers be tackled politically?

Observers expect that Gulf leaders will present their visions and ideas in this regard so that their foreign

ministers will implement these ideas and visions. Within the context of the discussion on the region's situation, Gulf diplomatic sources expect that the Gulf summit will discuss the developments in Yemen and their impact on the region. Observers believe that the Sultanate of Oman, which strengthened its relations with Yemen this year through the visit Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id made to Sanaa last October, will have its own opinion on what is going on in Yemen and on how to deal with it. The Omani viewpoint is founded on the basis that in the Gulf formula, Yemen, Iran, and Iraq are significant figures that cannot be ignored or not dealt with and that one cannot deal with one of them at the expense of another.

[20 Dec pp 1,4]

[Text] If 'Abdullah Bisharah, who is well-known for his proverbial monikers, were still the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] secretary general, he would call the 14th Gulf summit the "defense and deterrence summit." Military and defense aspects will occupy an important place in the Riyadh summit in light of the accord reached by the defense ministers to bolster military cooperation among their armies, to develop the Peninsula Shield capabilities, and to reinforce the joint military capabilities in order to develop the joint Gulf capability.

At meetings held in Abu Dhabi from 8-9 November 1993, the GCC defense ministers agreed on plans to develop joint defense cooperation and to start implementing a long-term plan to develop the Peninsula Shield forces and to establish a security belt around the six Gulf states.

Official Gulf sources have disclosed that the plans to develop joint Gulf defense cooperation include the following:

A. Establish around the GCC states a defensive security belt that calls for setting up an air defense network and an early air warning system—created by tying all of the six states' air defense networks and radars to each other—and for establishing new warning points and linking them to each other so they will be under the control of a single command that is linked to the Saudi-owned AWACS [Airborne Warning and Control Systems] planes.

B. Develop the Peninsula Shield forces, bolster their weapon capabilities, and increase their numbers so they will become 25,000-strong in the next three years, as stated by GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi.

In the first phase of this plan, military units from the various corps of the armies of the GCC states will be selected to join the Peninsula Shield forces and their command at their main location in the town of Hafr al-Batin, northeastern Saudi Arabia. Units from the air and naval forces of the GCC armies will be tied to the Peninsula Shield command. Perhaps the most significant point in the plan to develop the Peninsula Shield forces is the creation of a unified armored Gulf division under the command of these forces.

There is no doubt that approval of these plans by the six leaders will give the go-ahead signal for immediate implementation. Thus, the GCC will enter a new phase during which the emphasis is put on the endeavor to achieve a principle the GCC has already raised, namely that the "region's security and stability are the responsibility of its citizens." This is not enough for the GCC states to safeguard the region's security by themselves in the presence of two regional powers, namely Iraq and Iran. The objective of this step is, according to a Gulf official, to "create a force that will deter any party that contemplates embarking on an adventure similar to Saddam Husayn's adventure, for which Kuwait has paid a dear price. This means that the region's states will not just trust the protection of their security to the major powers but will also assume their responsibilities in this regard."

The fact is that the plan to create an early air warning system in the region is not new, considering that it was presented to the seventh summit in Abu Dhabi in 1988. But the debate on financing this system, on its command, and on the headquarters of this command, as well as on the locations of the warning centers, caused the Gulf states to delay agreement on the system until the Kuwait catastrophe occurred. In the wake of that catastrophe, Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, assigned by the GCC states, presented his plan to create a unified Gulf army to the 12th Gulf summit in Kuwait. Because of some sensitivities, it was agreed to amend the plan and to proceed with drafting plans to develop the Peninsula Shield forces so they would constitute the nucleus of a unified Gulf force.

When the political will materialized, the Gulf chiefs of staff were able to overcome the obstacles and sensitivities that had obstructed approval of the joint Gulf defense cooperation plans in accordance with the strategy embraced by the GCC states in the 1985 Muscat summit. The defense ministers then approved the plans drafted by the chiefs of staff to establish a security belt and to develop all particulars of the Peninsula Shield forces, especially those particulars connected with establishing a joint command system that provides for the periodic alternation of chiefs of staffs of these forces and with the method of financing creation of the air [defense] system and the expenditures required for the Peninsula Shield forces.

While defense and military cooperation accomplished a significant step through what has been agreed, Gulf security cooperation also took a considerable step toward reaching a unified Gulf agreement when Kuwait dropped its former reservations about some of the clauses in the security agreement during the meeting of the interior ministers held last month in Abu Dhabi. These reservations are connected with the subject of pursuit of criminals and smugglers across borders and capturing suspects and trying them.

Kuwait's withdrawal of its reservations raised hopes that this agreement would be signed. Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi interior minister, thinks of it as "the tool and fundamental instrument to implement the joint security strategy" which the GCC countries agreed upon in 1987. Prince Nayif expressed these hopes when he announced in Abu Dhabi last month that "the interior ministers have taken the necessary steps to put the security agreement in the final format to be signed within the next year."

The summit working papers which the leaders will study include the joint security agreement and a number of recommendations which are related to unification of other security and legal measures.

[21 Dec pp 1, 4]

[Text] The Arab file presented to the 14th Gulf summit in Riyadh includes three reports drafted by the Gulf foreign ministers for their leaders to debate when the discussion deals with the Arab issue. These reports are:

First, the rapid developments in the Middle East peace process, their impact on the Gulf states since the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles was concluded, and the talk about endeavors to establish a new Mideastern order to replace the Arab order that has been toppled by the consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

There is no doubt that the region's entry into the peaceful settlement phase has created new given facts and that the Arab Gulf states are required to deal with these developments and to participate in them, either by supporting and aiding the settlement process and the peace negotiations between the Arab parties and Israel or by participating in the multilateral Middle East talks that seek to underline Israel's participation in the region's issues. From the outset, the GCC states supported the peaceful settlement talks and contributed to the contacts that were held in the initial phases to get to the negotiations. Moreover, the GCC states have supported the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles as a first step toward a "just and comprehensive peace that accomplishes Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories."

When asked to finance the World Bank plan to provide economic aid to self-rule, the Gulf states did contribute. Saudi Arabia announced a contribution of $100 million and the UAE a contribution of $50 million for the first year.

The report prepared for the Gulf summit on the peace process developments focuses on two main issues, namely:

A. The Arab boycott of Israel: The report asserts that the position of the GCC states agrees with the Arab League resolution that emphasizes the continued Arab boycott of Israel.

B. Multinational negotiations: The report believes that there is no objection to achieving progress in the negotiations in which the GCC states participate parallel to the progress made in the peace process.

It is to be noted that Qatar and Oman will host next year the meetings of two committees of the multi-national negotiation committees.

As for providing Gulf aid to the Palestinian self-rule, it is not expected that the Gulf summit will issue a unanimous resolution on this issue. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has noted that the "GCC states have declared in their turn, each state separately, that they will aid the Palestinians."

It is to be noted that Kuwait wanted a collective resolution on Gulf participation in this aid. It seems from the emphasis, which the report submitted to the Gulf summi,t puts on the issues of the Arab boycott of Israel and the multinational negotiations that the GCC states believe that these are the dues required of them currently in connection with the peaceful settlement process.

As for other dues, such as the status of Palestinians residing in the GCC states, the Gulf capitals see that they are not required to resettle these Palestinians in their own countries and that these Palestinians will continue to be treated the same as residents from other Arab nationalities.

Damascus Proclamation

Second, the second report in the Arab file presented to the summit concerns the Damascus proclamation. Even though the foreign ministers of the Damascus proclamation signatory states held a meeting in Abu Dhabi last June in an attempt to revive this proclamation on new bases and to draft a new protocol to implement it, it is noticed that talk about the proclamation has diminished and disappeared. Even the experts committee, which was formed of the eight states that signed the proclamation in March 1991 and was supposed to meet at the beginning of this month to draft a protocol on the mechanism for implementing the proclamation—even this committee has not met. Consequently, the meeting scheduled to be held this month in the Syrian capital by the proclamation foreign ministers has not been held either.

Gulf sources said that the GCC states have been waiting for Egypt to take the initiative and call for holding the experts committee meeting and waiting for news from Syria, in its capacity as the host state, on convocation of the foreign ministers meeting. But nothing has been determined to date.

Observers believe that all this indicates that the Damascus proclamation has ended up being no more than just another Arab joint action document. In this regard, observers note what Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, said in Cairo last July, namely that "results of the Damascus proclamation will appear in five centuries."

But official Gulf sources assert that the Damascus proclamation continues to exist and that all efforts seek to transform it into a formula for inter-Arab relations within the framework of the Arab League.

AL-HAYAH has learned that a recommendation included in the report the foreign ministers have submitted the summit calls for entrusting the State of Qatar to contact Egypt in order to set a date for a meeting of the protocol-drafting experts committee in preparation for setting a date for the next meeting of the Damascus proclamation foreign ministers.

Inter-Arab Relations

Third, the third report in the Arab file concerns the status of inter-Arab relations, especially the Gulf relations with the other Arab countries. Even though three years have passed since the liberation of Kuwait, Arab relations continue to be the captive of the conditions and consequences generated by this war. Generally, the GCC countries' relations with some Arab countries (Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Palestine) have not experienced any significant positive developments, even though Oman has opened up to all these countries and even though Qatar has had good contacts and relations with these countries, including Iraq itself.

This year, some relaxation developed in the relations of a number of Gulf states with the PLO when Chairman Yasir 'Arafat visited Muscat last September and had a one-hour stopover at Abu Dhabi airport. But what is more important than this is the visits made by Palestinian officials (Mahmud 'Abbas and others) to some Gulf capitals.

Observers believe that the peace process developments have been the main motive behind the relaxation in the Gulf relations with the PLO. But Arab Gulf states continue to have their reservations on 'Arafat, even though the U.S. administration has urged them to deal with 'Arafat in wake of his approval of the Oslo accord. It seems that these reservations are what is slowing the restoration of fully normal Gulf relations with the PLO.

What emerges from the course of the Gulf relations with the Arab countries is that it is left up to each Gulf state to determine its relations with the other Arab countries according to its interest, even though Kuwait continues to refuse to establish relations with those whom it calls the "adversary states." However, observers believe that in wake of the latest peace process developments, future conditions in the Middle East region will dictate enacting the concept of "joint interests." This concept requires the presence of a strong Arab role in the Gulf region because the GCC states, which seek to become a regional power in the area in order to make up for the imbalance, cannot play this role without an Arab wall on which to lean. There is no doubt that the leaders of the GCC states will make the decision on such strategic resolutions.

[22 Dec pp 1, 4]

[Text] Even though border issues and problems between some Gulf states are not ordinarily presented on the Gulf summit agendas, bilateral meetings held on the summit sidelines provide an opportunity to discuss endless and problematic border issues. At times, and especially when raised in the media, these issues almost cause the GCC states' relations with each other to be stormy, as in the case of the Saudi-Qatari border dispute, which erupted more than a year ago. If it had not been settled two days before convocation of the Abu Dhabi summit, this dispute would have nearly blocked the GCC march.

Most GCC states, especially Saudi Arabia, believe that common border problems are easier to solve if they are kept out of the media limelights and provocation. This is what happened nearly two months ago between the UAE and Saudi Arabia when Abu Dhabi issued on 24 October 1993 a federal decree delineating the UAE maritime borders in the Arab Gulf and in the Sea of Oman, including both UAE internal and territorial waters. The law [decree] defines the UAE territorial sea as a water strip extending 12 nautical miles beyond the UAE internal and territorial waters. The law imposes certain conditions, which require that merchant ships and military boats and submarines vessels acquire an advance permit from the UAE authorities before they sail into and cross the UAE territorial waters.

Because Saudi Arabian and UAE sea and land borders overlap in the Khawr al- 'Adid area, southeast of Qatar and close to the Saudi-Qatari-UAE border triangle, this meant that the territorial border delineated by the new law, which extends the UAE territorial zones, would cross into the Saudi coastline in the Khawr al-'Adid area. The law would have caused tension to prevail in the region's relations if it had not been for the quiet contacts held between the two countries far from the limelights, including the meeting Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz had with Shaykh Bin-Zayid Sultan and the subsequent visit by Hamdan Bin-Zayid, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; and Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, Shaykh Zayid's chief adviser and the expert on all of the region's borders; to Jeddah and their meeting with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. It was emphasized at that meeting that the law delineating the UAE territorial waters and zones was not intended to violate the Saudi rights to the territories and coastline agreed upon in 1974. Thus, a page of border problems, which were tackled quietly and with utter confidentiality, was turned over. This confirms that the Saudi approach to deal with border problems quietly is a sound approach.

There is no doubt that the peripheral meetings, which will be held on the sidelines of the Gulf summit in Riyadh, will include a meeting between the Saudi monarch and Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the ruler of Qatar, to follow-up on the solution to the border problems between the two countries. An agreement has been reached on these problems and it calls for forming

a technical committee to oversee demarcation of the borders. It was agreed on this committee at a meeting held one year ago in al-Madinah between King Fahd, Shaykh Khalifah, and President Husni Mubarak.

It has been learned from Gulf diplomatic sources that the technical committee has held one meeting. There is no doubt that King Fahd and Qatar's ruler will emerge with an understanding on how to continue implementing their agreement.

Political circles view peripheral and bilateral meetings between Gulf leaders with great interest because these meetings determine features of the Gulf understanding on various issues, especially bilateral issues between the six states. These issues are not, of course, confined to border problems but also include other issues, especially disagreement in opinions on certain relations or contacts made by one state and viewed with sensitivity by another, such as the misunderstanding that has developed between Kuwait and Qatar over growing Qatari relations with Iraq. There is no doubt that the Kuwaitis do not view what they call Qatari opening up to Baghdad with satisfaction. This is particularly true of the visit made by the Qatari deputy chief of staff to Baghdad at the beginning of this month. This visit provoked greater Kuwaiti resentment and could have created tension in the relations with Doha had not Saudi Arabia intervened promptly and pacified matters and had not Doha issued a statement asserting that the deputy chief of staff's visit to Baghdad was a private visit.

During the Gulf ministerial meeting last Saturday, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad proceeded to meet with his Qatari counterpart, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, in an endeavor to settle the misunderstanding between their two countries and to pave the way for a meeting between their two leaders. In fact, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani did meet in Riyadh on the first day of the summit. There is no doubt that this meeting has contributed to settling the misunderstanding.

Economic File

In addition to the important peripheral and bilateral meetings between the Gulf states' leaders, another important file on the summit agenda is the economic file.

Whereas the 14th Gulf summit will see positive and important progress achieved in joint defense and security cooperation, Gulf circles have been "disappointed" by the failure to reach agreement to date on the unified customs tariff which, according to Dr. 'Abdullah al-Quwayz, GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, was supposed to be reached during this year which will end in a few days.

A Gulf agreement to unify customs fees on foreign imports has, according to a statement by Dr. al-Quwayz, faced the following disagreements of viewpoints:

"1. Some states believe that unifying the customs tariff by raising it above the reduced tariff levels they apply currently will negatively affect their reexport trade, which occupies big place in their economic activity.

"2. Other states believe that unifying the customs tariff at levels below the levels they apply currently will reduce their revenues and will affect their budgets negatively, unless this unification is coupled with a rewarding compensation for these states.

"3. A third group of states believe that reducing customs fees below a certain level will, in addition to reducing general treasury revenues, affect negatively the GCC states' negotiating power vis-a-vis their main trade partners. Such a reduction will also lead to unequal competition between national products and foreign products, thus reducing the GCC states' chances of real industrial growth at a time when these states seek to diversify their income sources."

Therefore, the economic papers submitted to the summit include a request from the GCC states' finance ministers to their leaders to give them more time to complete consultations on unifying the customs tariff. These papers also include another request for approval of the recommendations to improve the rules governing real estate ownership by Gulf states' citizens and recommendations to permit Gulf airlines to operate, to market services, and to make sales without the need for a local agent or a general guarantor. The papers further include a request to approve establishing a trade arbitration center for the GCC states in Bahrain and to pass its constitution.

It is indubitable that the failure to reach agreement on a unified customs tariff will delay the GCC states' objective of creating a common Gulf market to bolster the economic unity of the six Gulf states. This issue has been submitted constantly to all the Gulf summits since the first summit was convened in Abu Dhabi in 1981.

Oman

Sultan Issues Decree Creating Ministries, Posts

JN0501145094 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Decree No. 2/94 issued by Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on 5 January—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Decree No. 2/94 ordering a cabinet reshuffle: Having taken cognizance of Decree No. 26/75 on the issuance of the law regulating the state's administrative system and its amendments, in light of the progress being witnessed by the sultanate in all spheres, out of our interest in supporting the country's comprehensive development, and as required by the public interest, we, Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, have decreed the following:

1. His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id shall be appointed deputy prime minister for cabinet affairs.
2. The name of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers shall be changed to become the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. The title secretary of the Council of Ministers shall be changed to become the general secretary.
3. The deputy prime minister for cabinet affairs shall supervise the activities of the Council of Ministers and its General Secretariat. The bylaw of the Council of Ministers shall be amended to correspond to the regulations of this article.
4. A Higher Education Ministry shall be created. Yahya Bin-Mahfuz al-Mundhiri shall be appointed minister of higher education. He shall also be appointed chairman of the university board.
5. A Legal Affairs Ministry shall be created. Muhammad Bin-'Ali Bin-Nasir al-'Alawi shall be appointed minister of state for legal affairs.
6. Sa'ud Bin-Ibrahim Bin-Sa'ud al-Busa'di shall be appointed minister of education.
7. A Development Ministry shall be created. Muhammad Bin-Musa al-Yusuf shall be appointed minister of state for development affairs.
8. This decree shall be published in the official gazette. It shall become effective as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman

[Dated] 22 Rajab 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 January 1994

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Hands Letter to Sultan

LD0501211494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has handed a letter from the amir of Kuwait to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The letter concerns bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of giving them impetus and bolstering them in all spheres on the basis of the progress of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], the situation in the Arab and international arenas, and issues of mutual concern.

Before leaving Abu Dhabi earlier today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir stressed that Kuwait would not attend any Arab summit conference that may be convened to bring about Arab reconciliation unless the causes of Arab disputes had been removed first.

In a statement to some Arab correspondents, he said that Kuwait's stance vis-a-vis Arab reconciliation had not changed, stressing that reconciliation may be discussed once the main cause that has created the Arab dispute had been resolved.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that there were no differences in perception among GCC states with regards to reconciliation. He pointed out that the GCC states' stance emphasized the need for any reconciliation to be preceded by confronting the wrongdoings committed.

In his statement, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir stressed that the GCC was the mainstay of security in the region. He said that agreement was reached at the Riyadh summit to develop the strength of the Peninsula Shield force and increase the number of its troops in order for it to become a shield for protecting the region's countries. [passage omitted]

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed Kuwait's welcome of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as an initial step toward a just and comprehensive peace. He denied that there were contacts between Kuwait and the PLO.

Qatar

Lebanon's Junblatt Pays Visit, Views Peace Plan

NC0401190894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt, speaking to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY after a meeting with Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, announced that he is committed to the al-Ta'if Accord, wants to see it improved, and does not want a return to the pre-accord situation. [passage omitted]

Asked to comment on a connection between the Syrian presence in Lebanon and the situation in the south, he said there is no such connection. He added: Since there is a clear international decision to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, let the major powers pressure Israel to implement it.

He said the Syrian presence in Lebanon is an issue that concerns only the Lebanese and Syrian Governments.

Commenting on the peace process, Junblatt asserted that there can be no peace between the strong and the weak. He asked: Could 'Arafat regain Jerusalem, get rid of the settlements, and establish a state on his own?

Junblatt said there are ambiguous points in Oslo's secret agreement and Washington's public agreement. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Kuwait Minister Pays Visit, Delivers Message

JN0501124694 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the head of state, today received a letter from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, dealing with bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

The letter was handed to Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister, when he met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is visiting the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within a tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Sabah said that the letter expresses thanks and appreciation to His Highness Shaykh Zayid for UAE efforts during the GCC summits and during the occupation of the State of Kuwait and the UAE's support for the Kuwaiti people. His highness expressed the Kuwaiti amir's and people's appreciation and gratitude for the UAE, which has stood by the Kuwaiti people.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abbdallah and Kuwait's ambassador Ibrahim 'Abdallah al-Mansur.

Yemen

Troops Fire in Air To Disperse Demonstrators

NC0501131894 Paris AFP in English 1238 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Sanaa, Jan 5 (AFP)—Troops fired in the air to disperse demonstrators protesting over price rises in the southern Yemeni town of Ta'izz, witnesses said Wednesday [5 January].

There was no report of casualties from Tuesday night's clashes, according to the witnesses reached by telephone.

Armed police were out in force and shops closed in the capital Sanaa on Wednesday during peaceful protests.

The demonstrations followed a fall in the value of the riyal which has pushed up consumer prices.

It was trading at more than 70 to the dollar on the black market this week, compared with 60 a week ago. The official is rate is 12 to the dollar.

The central bank has been unable to prop up the riyal because of its meagre foreign currency reserves.

The economic situation has been exacerbated by a long running dispute between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner, and his deputy, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner, over how to run the country.

Yemen, in the southwest corner of the Arabian peninsula, is one of the world's poorest countries, with a per capita income of 500 dollars per year.

Measures Urged To Remedy Economic Ills

JN0601092294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The Presidential Council met today under Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Council examined the economic situation in the country, including price hikes, the sharp deterioration in the exchange rate of the Yemeni currency, as well as the difficulties and increased suffering this has caused to citizens in terms of overburdening their living conditions.

The Presidential Council regretted the negative and far-reaching repercussions of the continuing political crisis on the overall situation in our country, particularly on the economic and development levels, not to mention the climate of psychological and social instability it has created.

The Presidential Council affirmed the need for the government to shoulder its responsibilities by taking necessary and rapid measures to remedy the economic situation and bring the cost of living as well as the monetary and financial situation under control. It also affirmed the need for the public, private, and mixed sector organizations to play their roles and shoulder their responsibilities by ensuring the availability of basic commodities, achieving price stability, and easing the citizens' burdens.

The Presidential Council instructed the government to take firm measures against those who tamper with prices, hoard commodities, and speculate on the national currency, and to rapidly refer them to the Public Prosecution so it may take the proper legal measures against them. It also asked the government to activate the state agencies and organizations to achieve the administrative reform that would eliminate public negligence and apathy and promote services within the state's administrative agencies, facilities, and organizations.

The Council also asked the government to draw up and implement an effective monetary and financial policy that would ease the citizens' economic burdens and their difficult living conditions in order to thwart the efforts of the enemies of unity and democracy to sabotage the economy and speculate on the national currency so as to weaken it and create bottlenecks to bring about indignation and anger among the public, undermine national unity, and foment riots and sabotage, which only harm the national economy and the higher national interests.

The Presidential Council urged the brother citizens to demonstrate vigilance and awareness to thwart these hostile schemes, and also to cooperate with the competent agencies to help them perform their duties in order to safeguard public security and stability within the society.

During today's session, the Presidential Council examined several issues as well as national, regional, and international developments. It was also apprised of the activities carried out by the Presidential Council chairman and members last week.

The Council expressed satisfaction over the growing improvement in Yemeni-Qatari ties, and also over the existing fraternal cooperation between the two fraternal countries. It voiced its appreciation of the positive stand

of the fraternal Qataris, who are eager to see us cope with the current situation in the homeland, not to mention their support for Yemeni unity.

The Presidential Council addressed several topics listed on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions.

House Debates Currency Instability, Price Hikes

JN0501133394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] At a session held today under Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives endorsed the 3d Protocol of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union [UPU] approved at the Hamburg Congress of 1984, as well as the documents of the UPU's 20th Congress held in Washington in 1989 with sufficient votes.

The House had earlier discussed voting on Republican Decree No. 33 of 1992, which concerns the salaries and pensions of the Armed Forces and security personnel, in light of the provisions enshrined in Articles 83 and 130 of the bylaws of the House of Representatives. The House postponed voting on the aforementioned decree to its next session.

At the outset of its session today, the House discussed the overall economic situation, and particularly the declining exchange rate of the Yemeni currency, the exorbitant cost of living, and price hikes of staples, foremost among which are food supplies, medicines, and other basic survival requirements throughout the Republic of Yemen. The House decided to hold a general debate on this issue in the presence of government ministers in the session it will hold on the morning of Monday [10 January], God willing, to make firm decisions to address the people's living conditions, remedy the situation of the Yemeni currency, and accord due attention to public issues that concern citizens throughout the country.

The House asked the House committee assigned the task of finding the facts pertaining to the current political crisis to continue its duties in light of the accomplishments it has thus far made, and to inform the House of the results of the tasks it will undertake during the next phase without any delay.

For the Ministry of Transportation, the session was attended by Ahmad Hasan Qa'id, director general of the Public Postal Organization, and 'Ali Muhammad al-Qasim, director general of the Postal Services Department.

Salih Urges Armed Forces To Protect Unity

JN0601110194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today met with the brother Armed Forces commanders. Addressing them, he commended the meetings held among Armed Forces commanders in both Sanaa and Aden to discuss the situation of the Armed Forces in light of the ongoing crisis in the homeland in order to avert the use of the Armed Forces in the political conflicts that threaten the homeland's sovereignty and undermine the accomplishments of the revolution and people, namely, unity and democracy. He said that this crisis has gravely harmed the national economy as well as the citizens' living conditions, thanks to the price hikes and high cost of living it has caused. The crisis has also affected our military units and combatants, although combatants are well aware, probably more than others, of the tragedies and calamities brought about by fragmentation. Similarly, they are aware of the consequences of conflicts and disputes, he argued.

The brother Presidential Council chairman noted that the Armed Forces are a shield for the homeland and unity, rather than a tool to be used to protect persons, parties, or organizations. They must be kept away from any political conflicts or partisan differences, because this would jeopardize the homeland's sovereignty as well as its territorial integrity.

The brother Presidential Council chairman said that differences among political forces are a natural development and can be resolved through responsible national dialogue. However, he said that differences within the Armed Forces are unjustifiable, because they could bring catastrophes and tragedies to the people, homeland, and future generations. Past events are a testimony to what I am saying, he added. He pointed out that the Armed Forces personnel, thanks to unity, have become brothers and comrades in arms. Their mission right now, he said, is to safeguard this great accomplishment scored by dear sacrifices. He urged the Armed Forces personnel to confront the advocates of division, fragmentation, and secession; those who foment sedition; as well as all those who are attempting to make our people relive the times of division and conflict, to take them backward, or to push them into the abyss. The homeland, he said, is the property of neither 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, nor 'Ali Salim al-Bid, or others, for that matter. The homeland belongs to all Yemenis, he said. All zealous citizens must oppose falsehood without fear. Likewise, they must confront the enemies of the homeland and its unity.

The Presidential Council chairman touched on the economic situation, which has been adversely affected by the political crisis, its repercussions, as well as its impact on the citizens' living conditions and their peace of mind. He affirmed the need for the government to shoulder its responsibilities to ease the citizens' burdens, remedy the economic situation, halt increasing price hikes and speculation on the national currency. He affirmed his confidence that our people's sons, headed by the Armed Forces personnel who forged a matchless glory on 22 May 1990, will not abandon this great accomplishment. They are willing to make every conceivable dear sacrifice to protect this accomplishment, he concluded.

Aden, Sanaa Commanders Differ on Reorganization

PM0601105794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Aden Rejects Sanaa's document on the Army"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Yemeni military sources have revealed that the military commanders who came from Sanaa for a meeting with the military commanders in Aden headed by Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir of the Defense Minister's Staff presented a document dealing with the current political situation and its various dimensions, particularly those related to the armed forces.

The sources said that the Aden military commanders rejected the document, which carried the slogan "prohibition of secession and condemnation of infighting," and called instead for a comprehensive dialogue on the future of the armed forces and ways of building that institution in a way that would keep it out of partisan, family, regional, and sectarian loyalties and make it the safety valve of unity.

According to the same sources, the document of the military figures who came from Sanaa offered three options to keep the explosive fuse away from the Army. They are:

1. The first option: the transfer of some adjacent units facing one another in some areas in the governorates of Ta'izz, Lahij, Ibb, Shabwah, Ma'rib, and al-Bayda' to areas to be agreed upon in the governorates of Hadramaut, Shabwah, Ma'rib, al-Jawf, and Sa'dah (border areas) in a way that would fulfill the state's strategic defense requirements, protect vital targets, and seal off smuggling routes in these areas.

The units whose transfer is required are:
A. The 3d infantry brigade (Ta'izz); the Labbuzah brigade (Kirsh).
B. The 2d independent armored brigade (al-Hurrah camp in Ibb); the 'Abbud brigade (al-Dali'-al-'Anad)
C. The 56th brigade (al-Bayda'); the 20th brigade (Mukayris)
D. The Mulham brigade (Bayhan); the 6th infantry brigade (Harib).

2. The second option: The merging of the abovementioned adjacent units—that is merging each unit with the one facing it.

3. The third option: An exchange of camps between the adjacent units by having them replace one another, and the transfer of the 2d armored brigade from al-Hamrah camp to al-Dali'-al-'Anad camp and the transfer of the 'Abbud brigade from al-Dali'-al-'Anad camp to al-Hamrah camp.

The document also proposes that the political leadership give absolute authority to the defense ministry command and the chief of the general staff in determining the ideal size of the armed forces and in the reorganization and redeployment of these forces and completion of the measures for their merger in accordance with the strategic defense requirements and the homeland's higher interests.

Other proposals included return of military commanders and, especially, the defense minister to their posts in Sanaa and Aden, ending conscription, armament, and mobilization of units, militias, border guards, popular guards, and others, and cancellation of the measures already taken.

The Aden military reject that document and, according to the sources, see it a "military and political trap."

Responsible military sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the military meeting held in Aden last week flatly rejected that document and called for a general dicussion of the armed forces situation not just the circumstances relating to the current political crisis.

The sources confirmed that the military will resume their meetings today in the capital, Sanaa, on the basis of the points raised by the Aden military commanders at the previous meeting, which include the following:

1. Abolition of the Republican Guard (attached to the presidency), merging it with the armed forces.

2. Abolition of the military police and and keeping its tasks confined within the framework of the armed forces.

3. Abolition of the central security [force], merging it with the interior ministry and the general security [forces].

4. Assignment of guards for political figures including the president, the vice president, and the other Presidential Council members on the basis of the importance of the country's political figures and also tribal leaders.

5. Agreement to move all camps out of the towns and provincial capitals.

6. The political leadership should leave management of the army to the military, which means giving the defense minister vast powers. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Addresses Dialogue Committee in Aden

JN0601115094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid received in Aden today the brother members of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, which continues its meetings in Aden, the economic and commercial capital of the country.

At the outset of the meeting, Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid welcomed the committee members, appreciating their efforts to reach practical solutions to the current problems. He said that the

good efforts being made by the Dialogue Committee, which includes several national figures whose national role and struggle experience are undeniable, need to be fostered and nurtured. Positive participation in the work of this committee is required to ensure the success of its efforts, he noted.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid affirmed that the Dialogue Committee must be supported if its efforts are to succeed. He hoped that the committee will achieve tangible results that would help overcome difficulties and meet the challenges facing the effort to build a modern national state. He maintained that this would also remove the obstacles along the road to democracy in our homeland. He asserted the importance of making concerted efforts to identify all that could enjoy the unanimous support of all Yemenis and their noble national forces. He also called for expanding participation in this committee's work, and also for demonstrating seriousness and patience. He said that this committee's work must bear fruit.

The Presidential Council vice chairman said that Yemen's strength lies in its unity, in implementing its cultural plan, and also in building a modern national state that would ensure a better future for its population. He said that Yemen has great capabilities and potentials at its disposal. We must be proud of these capabilities and potentials, and strive to use them to promote the development and construction endeavor, he added.

The Presidential Council vice chairman affirmed the importance of complying with the results of the dialogue, and with all the measures the committee might agree upon to enhance unity and foster democracy, as this would spare the country future difficulties as well as the dangers of violence and terrorism. He appealed to all noble national forces to unite themselves against violence and all other negative phenomena, which have begun to jeopardize the democratization process heralded by our country on 22 May 1990 and undermine the security and stability of both the homeland and citizens. He affirmed that the competent agencies must address security violations, ease the people's difficult living conditions, and halt price hikes as well as the declining exchange rate of the national currency. He noted that an atmosphere of trust and amity must be fostered, and that the negative painful legacy of the past must be forgotten.

In his remarks to the Dialogue Committee, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid affirmed the need to expand the base of participation in the ongoing dialogue. He added that a new mechanism must be identified to promote this. Tangible measures must be seen, he noted. He went on to say that a single practical step is better than a host of decisions that remain ink on paper. He added: The best of us is he who provides solutions that would enjoy the people's support.

The brothers members of the Dialogue Committee and Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid exchanged views on the current situation, as well as the ways and means of finding solutions to this situation. The Dialogue Committee members affirmed their eagerness to find solutions and genuine remedies to the current crisis in order to safeguard unity and democracy and build a modern national state.

Saddam Speaks on Army Day Anniversary

JN0501194694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1803 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on 5 January commemorating the 73d anniversary of the Iraqi Army; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great people, O stalwart men in our valiant Armed Forces, O glorious Arabs, O honest men and those have faith in justice and right wherever you may be: Greetings. On this blessed day, the 6th of January, the anniversary of the birth and founding of Iraq's Army in modern times, important meaning and values glimmer here, and in the life of the nation and mankind every year. The first nucleus of Iraq's modern Army; the Musa al-Kazim Regiment was founded on 6 January 1921. On that date, the old colonialist powers, with Britain at their forefront, which used to control major parts of the world, exploited hundreds of millions of the sons of mankind, plundered their resources, and resorted to force and repression against those who called for freedom and justice.

A scientific comparison of the potentials of the poor and weak people of the world, including the people of Iraq, against the armies, fleets, aircraft, and other huge material potential of Britain and the other colonialist countries was not in favor of our people and others like us. Such a comparison may instill despair and result in capitulation to the will of the oppressive and colonialist tyrants. However, in spite of the difficult circumstances and the meager technical and material potential in general, the people of Iraq rebelled against these oppressive tyrants. Our people did all that they could do under those circumstances and affected the plans and the stands of the leaders of evil, achieving certain results on the road to freedom and independence, including the establishment of the nucleus of a national army, which is this great Army whose anniversary we celebrate today after 73 years. This Army stands loftily, crowned with pride, capability, and honesty. This is because the people's will is second to God's will; stronger than all circumstances and state of affairs. All that leads to a better life, therefore, stems from this will.

In those days, the stalwart Iraqis imposed their will on the colonialists by founding their national Army. Afterward, the sly colonialists and their stooges tried to make this Army a tool in their hands against the people and their national objectives of freedom and independence and against pan-Arab objectives and genuine faith, honesty, and loyalty.

However, the then budding Army, which now has great experience, is the righteous son of Iraq and the descendant of Iraq's great armies known by this land for more than 5,000 years. This Army has disappointed their malicious hopes and remained the way the unyielding people of Iraq wanted it—an Army for Iraq and the nation. As time went by, the Army became a bulwark for nationalism and pan-Arabism and a school for the brave men who advocate Arabism and champion Islam.

This was the history of the Army in the 1930's; in the 1941 revolution; the revolution of 14 July 1958; the Ramadan revolution in 1963; and also under the leadership of the party of the people and the nation, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in the 17-30 July 1978 revolution.

This is the role played by our valiant Army in defending Iraq and Arabism against the racist anti-Arab expansion that came from the east for eight fierce years in successive epics of the glorious al-Qadisiyah. Finally, manifest victory was scored on the day of days, 8 August 1988.

This is its role, which is unprecedented in the history of mankind, in the immortal Mother of Battles, when it withstood the aggression of 28 armies and more than 30 states, including three super powers. There were other supporters who were among the people of a superpower that was a friend of the Arabs and Iraq until part of its leaders conspired against the great people of Iraq.

O brothers, O brave fighters, the elite of the nation's men and the slogan of its glory:

The deluded colonialists have tried for more than 70 years to strike at this Army and to turn it into a tool in their hands against the people, homeland, and the nation. Following the criminal aggression—in which they used all manner of weapons of killing and destruction in their arsenals, including the banned weapons—after launching large-scale propaganda campaigns full of lies and falsehood and on which they spent large amounts of money from the treasuries of the renegades who stole the wealth of the Arab nation; after the unjust blockade through which they aimed at starving the people; and after imposing the no-fly zones in the north and the south, those colonialists imagined that they could achieve today what they failed to achieve in the past. The lowly ones were disappointed. The Army of the nation, the brave and great Army of Iraq, which was a national and pan-Arab bastion throughout its glorious history, remained, even after the aggression, Iraq's lofty Arab bastion to defend dignity, sovereignty, independence, and the homeland. It also remained a school of sacrifices, giving, and creativity in the times of peace and construction as well as on the fields of combat.

O brothers, armies and nations, which exist on the same surface, live their values and follow basic criteria in terms of seriousness and nonseriousness toward principles and stands. And when a nation or an army retreats from its course and remains under the effect of this setback, not trying to stand up, the other party will follow suit. Whenever a nation rises up and holds on, the Army will also rise up and hold on. Anyhow, in this era of the history of nations, armies and nations exist on the same surface, see each other, and interact with each other. They live with a common conscience and historical sense. If any of them represent both at the beginning of a historical era in a situation like this, then, everybody will follow the party that represents all even if certain

factors have placed one of them in the position of the initiator and the other in the position of a follower because it is burdened by responsibilities that prevent it from taking the lead position.

This is exactly how the relationship has been between our people and Army throughout history. If the people or the Army take a step forward on the road to historical achievement, and both are part of the nation's conscience, this step encourages the adoption of another one and both interact and form a great historical era. This relationship has been clearly embodied in the details and picture of what happened whether in Al-Qadisiyah battle, which our comrades have named Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, or in the Mother of Battles with all its arenas and chapters.

The people during al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles have been the backbone of the Army, the secret of the great sense of national and pan-Arab affiliation, and the source of the conscience of history and the aspirations from which the Army gains its readiness for sacrifice and optimism for the future. The Army, with its ideological, psychological, and professional training has always been the people's support when ill winds sap the determination of some, or when the march does not equip them to complete the march.

We experienced circumstances in al-Qadisiyah during which the people took the initiative to give another chance to the Army to enable it to portray the image it wishes to portray. When the major fighting began in the glorious Mother of Battles, when the fighting intensified and pressures were brought to bear from all sides, and after the first chapter of the 30-state attack, when the action of the evildoers and the treacherous took place within the framework of the Iranian conspiracy that complemented the comprehensive aggression and when the chapters of the conspiracy, treachery, and treason intensified, some were shaken and feet slipped from the right course. The Army, and we mean the knights of the Armed Forces, those who have a principled historical stand and enjoy excellent values, have been those who entrenched the banners on lofty hills so that every eye would see the banner of God is great and so that this banner would announce to the four corners of the earth that right is here, that honor is here, that the present is here and the future passes through here, that capability and impregnability are here. May evil befall all the weak, and accursed be the treacherous, those who assist the foreigner. Nationalism and pan-Arabism are here. Woe to the foreigner when he crosses the borders and commits crimes. The sublime meanings are here. Long live Iraq and our glorious Arab nation. God is great. Long live Iraq. God is great. Long Live Palestine, free and Arab. Long live Palestine.

Brothers, by what we have said, we meant to tell our dear, valiant, and militant Army and our great, glorious people that sincere, principled, and historically perceptive leaders may commit mistakes as regards what should be done. Only God is infallible. Some may recall part of the mistakes in isolation from the circumstances of the comprehensive situation. They may think that it would be right to feel angry or imagine that it would be legitimate to react angrily. However, as long as leaders do not commit historic mistakes that will be regretted by the people or the Army, or the people and the Army together, God forbid, the traits and meaning of historic leadership will continue to be associated with them. If remorse affects the Army and the people in general—any people and army—then this means that a mark of disgrace has been recorded against them in that particular era. Thus, they will lose an historic opportunity to have a record of great honor. Despite all the injustice and humiliation that affected the great Iraqi people and valiant Armed Forces by the opponent's technical force and the broad enemy front, your leadership has not pushed you to remorse and disgrace. Most often, it has saved some from their own selves, having pulled falsehood from under their feet and supported their backs with right.

Brothers, these lessons are not only meant as a source of pride, but they lead to important conclusions in our daily struggle and steadfastness in the face of tyranny and the embargo imposed on our people and country.

The steadfastness of the Iraqi Army and the fact that it has maintained its defensive capabilities and bright national and pan-Arab traits is a prominent, shining aspect of the steadfastness of Iraq, in all its sectors and among its zealous sons, in the face of aggression, tyranny, malicious plots, false propaganda, and the embargo imposed by the forces of evil and darkness since 6 August 1990.

The Army of the people has maintained its steadfastness; the people of Iraq have also remained steadfast, in the face of all plots and wagers at a stage when U.S. tyranny is dominating the world in alliance with world Zionism. During this stage, many armies were humiliated. Also, many peoples and countries, some of them big, were disgraced. However, the enemies, before the friends, have acknowledged publicly and secretly that their wagers on Iraq, its Army, people, and leadership have failed utterly. May God disgrace them, make their sides bleed, and throw them in hell.

Zealous brothers and glorious sisters: Among the prominent facts about the outcome of the Mother of Battles and its continuation until this day in various forms and methods, we feel confident that steadfastness, adherence to the principles and values of freedom, justice and right, as expressed by the Mother of Battles in their highest meanings, and pursuing reconstruction and creativity, represent the right course. There is no other course to remove injustice, tyranny, the unjust embargo, and any weakness that besets the followers of God.

These lessons have so far, with God's help and blessings, facilitated Iraq's steadfastness and the capabilities to pursue reconstruction. They also ensure the necessary requirements for safeguarding our dear homeland,

making it free, lofty, and capable of awakening and continued reconstruction and progress.

Brothers, honorable people of the world: We have always been inspired by our noble religion and the traditions of our Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him. We have also been inspired by the noble principles of the Ba'th [Party]. We have always been advocates of peace and brotherliness, believing in right, justice, and equality and struggling for our rights and principles without encroaching on the rights of others. We in Iraq and as free Arabs in the Arab nation want to have in this world a respectable position, which we deserve due to what the Iraqis and Arabs have contributed to human civilization and to upholding the principles of right and justice throughout history. Today, the tyrants and the oppressors who are hold sway over the world's destiny cannot—no matter what they do—prevent the great people of Iraq from occupying the sublime status for which they are struggling, nor can they prevent the world nations from realizing their freedom, progress, and right to choose their way of life through their free, dignified will.

Glorious Iraqi men and women: A few days before the third anniversary of the 30-state aggression, we are confident that the wicked objectives the sought by the wicked ones before, during, and after the aggression are collapsing one after the other. The remaining chapters of aggression will also collapse the way many of them collapsed in the past, God willing. They will collapse with the determination of the zealous Iraqis and the support of the free people and faithful ones in the world. Regarding this issue, I would like to say that some rulers in the region—rulers who betrayed the trust, lost honor, plotted against Iraq, and took part in the sinister schemes against it and in aggression against its people—are still trying with all their means to maintain the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. They are spending what has remained of the funds to this end. They are also supporting the illegal interests of those laying traps and the polytheists at the expense of the wealth of their peoples and the poor sons of the nation. They are paying bribes here and there to stop the growing trend that is calling for the lifting of the unjust embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. May God disgrace and uncover them.

Those who lost their honor, independence, and money to fund the intrigues against Iraq will lose more of what has remained with them of the money of the poor. They will waste the wealth of their peoples and nation. However, they will not be able to harm Iraq's steadfastness and ability to forge its way ahead over the debris of the wall of the blockade and injustice, protected by the banner of God is great, which has been maintained by the most gracious, most compassionate. Those who are wallowing in treason and are blinded by evil imagine that lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq is a wicked political game or a dirty diplomacy that can be obstructed by illegal payments and bribes. They do not know that the basic reason that will lead to the ending of the blockade is the steadfastness of Iraq and the Iraqis, their adherence to faith in their principles and their rights, their clinging to honor and virtue, and their loyalty to their noble nationalist, pan-Arab, and human objectives. These bases, which cannot be shaken or changed by funds, evil intrigues, or the meanness of the wicked ones, are the Iraqis' ammunition in facing the embargo and their path toward ending it and any ordeal.

Dear Iraqis, brave men of our national valiant Armed Forces, the Army of July 1958, Ramadan 1963, July 1968, al-Qadisiyah, and Mother of Battles: In this new year, like the previous years, we are looking forward to more work, training, vigilance, efficiency, and more creativeness and innovation of methods, through which we will defeat the enemy of both God and you. Through such methods, we will defeat the unjust blockade, hold fast in the face of the arrogant ones and henchmen, and prove to the enemies that their blockade is useless, that their intrigues will be defeated, and that the values and rights of our nation and people are well protected and that God is their protector and defender.

Greetings of love and pride. Peace be upon our victorious Army, the descendent of the great armies of Iraq and the holder of the banner of Arabism and the message of good, justice, and right. Peace be upon the Army of Iraq, the Army of the Arab nation. Peace be upon the martyrs. Peace be upon the martyrs. Peace be upon Palestine. Peace be upon every Arab who has rejected and rejects wrongdoing. Peace be upon everyone of you and your families. May God preserve you and protect you. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

Opposition Leaders Reportedly Killed

LD0601103994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0912 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Jan (KUNA)—AL-WATAN newspaper today reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has committed a new massacre against leaders from the Ba'th party who broke away from him years ago and sought refuge in Damascus.

The paper pointed out that Iraqi intelligence prepared a plan to lure a number of Iraqi opposition leaders living in Syria to the Kurdish area and from there to Mosul, where they were left to contact active elements of the [Iraqi] opposition; then they were arrested. The paper added that the plan succeeded and that death sentences were carried out on at least 10, including Muhamad al-Tai, who was described as a member of the dissident Iraqi regional command.

Sources of the dissident Iraqi regional command leadership in Damascus remained silent, but AL-WATAN paper reported these sources as saying that al-Tai acted individually and without orders from the leadership.

The paper said it was announced in Mosul that the bodies of five victims have been received, and that the rest are believed to have been killed during interrogation.

PUK's Talabani Meets Syrians, Iraqi Opposition

NC0501160894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], resumed his talks with Syrian officials and Iraqi opposition figures in Damascus. At 1800 on 3 January, brother Talabani met with Mut'ib Shinan, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and official in charge of Iraq's command branch, and comrades Hikmat, Abu-Salah, and Dr. Fadil al-Ansari.

The two sides stressed the need to promote their historic ties and their adherence to the provisions of their joint accord. They also discussed the political and economic situation in Iraq. Brother Talabani and the Syrian delegation exchanged views on their joint action program and the need to continue the dialogue with the other parties.

The PUK secretary general held a series of meetings with the representatives of the Iraqi opposition parties and progressive figures. Brother Talabani met with a delegation of the Islamic Action Organization and leading figures of the Iraqi Communist Party.

Meanwhile, brother Talabani met with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party yesterday. The talks during the meeting dealt with their bilateral ties. The meeting was attended by PUK representative in Syria Dana Ahmad Majid.

Brother Talabani also met with the Spanish ambassador to Syria yesterday. They exchanged views between Spain and Kurdistan and the means to bolster them in future.

Kurdish Regional 'Minister' Resigns

PM0601143894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 94 p5

['Adnan Husayn report: "Confirmation of the First Resignation From the 'Government' of Iraqi Kurdistan; the Parties of Barzani and Talabani Coordinate Their Ways of Dealing With the Islamic Movement"]

[Excerpts] London—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a minister in the regional "government" formed by the Iraqi Kurds about a year and a half ago in the northern areas not under the control of the Iraqi Government resigned last month in protest against what he described as "violations" and "excesses" in the government administration.

According to the sources of these reports, Culture Minister Shirku Biks (50 years old), considered one of the most prominent Kurdish poets at present, justified the resignation he submitted on 11 December by saying that "he did not wish to bear the historical responsibility, before the people, for the violations taking place in the government administration, the daily excesses, the intertwined ministerial powers, and other problems of government administration."

Biks does not belong to any Kurdish party but he was a candidate on the list of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani in the local parliamentary elections held in Iraqi Kurdistan in May 1992. [passage omitted]

According to PUK sources, the Kurdish minister's resignation was mainly due to his dissatisfaction with a number of measures taken by the regional government including the closure of the local paper WALAT by an administrative and not judicial decision and without legal grounds. That paper was published by some Iraqi Kurds and was known for its support for the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] of Turkey which has waged a guerrilla war against Turkey and which calls for an independent Kurdish state. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, PUK sources have stated that the meeting held between the leaders of two main parties in Iraqi Kurdistan [the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party] last Sunday ended in agreement to cooperate to "solve the problems" resulting from the recent fighting between the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan and the PUK. They added that the two sides agreed on a "framework for dealing with and cooperating with the movement on the basis of commitment to the local laws, and no armed presence."

In another development, a responsible source of the Iraqi opposition's Democratic National Accord Grouping has denied that there was a recent split in his organization. He said that late last month the Executive Committee held meetings "during which it accepted the resignation of 'Abd-al-Karim al-Mashhadani, taking into consideration his family circumstances, and terminated the memberships of Usamah Mahdi and Munaf Hasan for refusing to comply with the decisions made during the meetings in connection with political, organizational, and administrative matters." These three had issued a statement the day before yesterday saying that they resigned in protest against "ideological, organizational, and administrative violations."

Islamic Movement Resumes Fighting in Kurdistan

PM0501140094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p4

['Adnan Husayn report: "Islamic Movement Confirms Resumption of Fighting in Iraqi Kurdistan"]

[Excerpts] London—The Islamic Movement [IM] in Iraqi Kurdistan has announced that it has resumed its armed operations against the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] which is led by Jalal Talabani and which shares power with the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani in the Kurdish areas not under the Iraqi Government's control.

A spokesman for IM in London told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that "over the past two days, a large IM force occupied the mountain range of Ahmad Awah" overlooking the road between the towns of al-Sulaymaniyah and Halabjah near the borders with Iran.

He added that the villages of "Balkhah, Ahmad Awah, Byara, and Tawilah are now under the control of IM forces" and that the IM forces "have killed or wounded no less than 15 PUK members and taken prisoner 25 others."

PUK sources denied that, but said that "limited fighting" took place the day before yesterday near the village of Tawilah on the border with Iran. They added that "remnants of the IM along with some members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard attacked the village but were immediately driven out of it."

According to the same sources, the "IM remnants are trying to regroup inside Iranian territory with the help of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard." [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dr. Barham Salih, member of the PUK and "Kurdistan region government" representative in Washington, said that his party "which was compelled to fight the IM" did not wish to end the IM "as a political organization.... We just want it to comply with the decisions and laws of the (Kurdish) parliament and government, and to operate in accordance with the law organizing freedom of partisan action in Kurdistan, which prohibits the presence of armed party militias outside the framework of the unified Kurdistan army."

Turk on Trial for Killing BBC Trio

NC0501211094 Paris AFP in English 2020 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Jan 5 (AFP)—The trial opened here Wednesday [5 January] of a Turkish guide accused of murdering three BBC freelancers in Kurd[illegible]-controlled northern Iraq, an AFP correspondent reported.

Hashim Jirki is accused of killing Charles Maxwell, Nick della Casa and his wife Rossana as he took them across the Turkish-Iraq border during the Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq in March 1991.

The bodies of the two men were found close to the border six months later, but the woman has never been found.

Kurdish police arrested Jirki in spring of last year, and he allegedly confessed to the killings, saying the three had not given him enough money.

He has spent 10 months in prison in Irbil, where the breakaway Kurdish parliament is based.

Kurdish police said it had taken until now to complete their investigations, and they had been in contact with their Turkish counterparts.

Trial judge Ta-al-Din told AFP that the verdict will be given on Saturday.

The three British journalists had planned to slip across the mountainous border to report on the Kurdish uprising against President Saddam Husayn following the Gulf war.

They left the Turkish border town of Yuksekova and were never seen again.

The mystery remained for more than a year, despite efforts by the BBC and Rossana della Casa's mother, who visited the region several times and is a member of a delegation accompanying Britain's Lord Archer on a current trip here.

It was suspected by other journalists and also by Kurdish authorities that the three had either been killed by the Turkish or Iraqi military.

However, Jirki surrendered to the Kurdish police and confessed last year.

Lord Archer, better known as the author Jeffrey Archer, addressed the Kurdish parliament on Wednesday and delivered a message from Prime Minister John Major.

Major expressed his satisfaction "to be able to pass these greetings through the elected representatives of the people of Iraq."

He said his meeting last March with leaders of the opposition Iraqi National Congress "strengthened my hope that this democratic model will one day be followed by other parts of Iraq if that is the wish of the Iraqi people."

He also confirmed that British aircraft will remain at least another six months in Turkey to protect northern Iraq.

Lord Archer arrived here on Tuesday for a five-day visit.

Analyst Predicts 'Peaceful Trends' for 1994

JN0501154094 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 5 (INA)—An Iraqi political analyst predicted peaceful trends in the Arab region during the current year resulting from feelings of fatigue caused by international conflicts that had engulfed the region over the past years.

The analyst, Mr. Barzan al-Tikriti said in an article published by AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper today that such kind of peace could be achieved if bravery was available with those decision-making people to wrap up chapter of the past and start a new chapter through serious and realistic debate of affairs and realities despite their bitterness to reach a new and sound frame that clarifies the nature of relationship and obligations.

The Iraqi analyst warned against the probabilities in case of non-availability of good intentions and the bravery for realizing a settlement of leading to dangerous developments that cause blood and destruction.

Mr. al-Tikriti believes that inter-actions of 1994 will be governed by the quality of the relationship between two courses. First of them is the feeling of fatigue from the conflict and the second is an increased move toward regionalism especially in the Arab region as a result to previous events and mainly to the events in the Arab Peninsula and Gulf.

The Iraqi analyst justified the Zionist-Palestinian self-rule agreement to the feeling of fatigue of the conflict parties and said that that feeling could be the reason behind the probability of achieving peace in Ireland and other hot-beds in the world.

Mr. al-Tikriti further predicted an end to other conflicts in other parts of the word like Afghanistan. Former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Yemen in addition to the conclusion of peace agreements by concerned Arab countries with Israel.

The analyst was of the view that all those issues would be liable for settlement because of the weight of pressure of fatigue from conflict unless a decisive factor could be introduced in those conflicts and differences and namely the motive of regionalism.

Mr. al-Takriti ruled out the possibility that the Arab homeland could witness a real attempt for unification neither in general nor on the level of regional entities and that there are increased fears over the possibility of maintaining Iraq as integral entity.

The analyst replied on such fears by saying that Iraq would remain unified for reasons including that what could be applied on Iraq is applied on countries of the region unless those countries would accept what the others decide for them or were not knowing what is going around them or within their borders.

The Iraqi analyst further predicted an escalation to the extreme fundamentalist trend in the Arab region in the manner that threatens of changes in the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf states, Egypt and other Arab countries.

'Great Importance' Seen in Damascus Statement

TA0601055394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Well-informed Israeli sources attribute great importance to a statement made by a Radio Damascus commentator that in exchange for a withdrawal from all the occupied territories, Israel will reap the fruits of peace on all fronts, without exception. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that according to these sources, this is the first statement of its kind. They believe it was made in anticipation of the Clinton-al-Asad summit.

Sources Confirm Talks To Resume 'Next Week'

TA0501173994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The Taba talks will resume next week since Israel and the PLO have bridged most of the gaps in their positions. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is in the studio with the details:

Several words separate Israel and the PLO and are holding up the official announcement on the resumption of the Taba talks. Most of the work has, in fact, already been done and has enabled official political sources in Jerusalem to say today that the deliberations will be renewed next week, and only the day still has to be decided. The telephone dialogue between Shim'on Peres and Nabil Sha'th has so far led to the following outcome: The Taba talks will discuss the Cairo understandings and the Declaration of Principles.

The PLO is pleased because it refers to understandings and no longer talks about the Cairo agreement or document. Israel is satisfied because it is based on the Cairo Liaison Committee and not on the Oslo or Versailles talks, as demanded by the PLO. Israel is also pleased about something else; Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said several times recently that Yasir 'Arafat's recent demands are deviations from the Oslo documents. The contacts are due to continue this evening. Foreign Minister Peres is due to talk on the telephone again with Nabil Sha'th. Peres also spoke with 'Arafat's special adviser Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi several times today.

Correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the Meqorot company today:

[Begin recording] [Balsenboim] Rabin was the guest of the Meqorot company which inaugurated Jerusalem's fourth water pipeline, but he could not avoid journalists' questions about the crisis in the peace talks. The first question put to him was when would the Taba talks resume:

[Rabin] I hope that they will be resumed when a suitable basis is found, if there is agreement on what was achieved in Cairo. If there is no agreement then everything is open.

[Balsenboim] The prime minister added that if the Cairo agreement is not approved by Tunis then we are also not bound by what was agreed upon.

[Rabin] It is true that it was known beforehand that any agreement reached in Cairo depends on the approval of the leaderships in Tunis and Jerusalem. No approval was apparently received in Tunis for some of the things achieved in Cairo. If this is the case, then from our standpoint, things said in Cairo do not have to be approved by us.

[Balsenboim] Asked about a possible meeting with 'Arafat, Rabin said it is more important to reach agreement on the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

[Rabin] I do not think that at this stage such a meeting is the issue. The aim is to find real answers to permit us to implement the commitment to the Declaration of Principles, to translate it into a detailed Gaza-Jericho First agreement. Implementation will not start before we reach such an agreement.

[Balsenboim] To conclude, Rabin added that independent contributions by ministers and Knesset members to the negotiations are superfluous.

[Rabin] I think that at this stage, it is preferable to leave the negotiations to those who have to handle them and independent contributions are superfluous. [end recording]

Peres, Rabin React to Taba Talks Resumption

TA0601094394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that if the Palestinians will want to discuss the editorial and stylistic aspects of the Cairo understandings in Taba, Israel will not object. As far as the contents are concerned, Peres said the Cairo understandings will serve as the basis for the continuation of the Taba talks. Minister Peres told our political correspondent Udi Segal that the Palestinians have learned that Israel is serious when it says it will not compromise on security issues and that this is not merely a matter of tactics and bargaining. The foreign minister said that the contacts between Nabil Sha'th and himself lasted for several days because Israel wanted to make it clear to the Palestinians that it is acting cautiously and is not pressed for time. Our political correspondent notes that Israel wants the Taba talks to go on continuously in order to attain quick progress.

A short time ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also commented on the resumption of the Taba talks next week. According to Rabin the negotiations, which will be based on the Cairo understandings, are aimed at attaining a detailed agreement on Gaza and Jericho. This morning, Rabin visited the settlement of Na'ama where he met the local residents. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz brought this report from the Allenby Bridge border crossing:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] A short time ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is visiting this crossing point, said that the Taba talks will be based mainly on the understandings reached by Israel and the Palestinians in Cairo. The prime minister arrived here accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and, together with other IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, they visited the settlement of Na'ama in the Jordan Valley. Local settlers have claimed that in the framework of the Jericho autonomy plan, their settlement will turn into an enclave within the Jericho area.

Rabin told the settlers that Israel considers the Jordan Valley a security zone because of the area's importance for the country's security. This is what Rabin said regarding the resumption of the Taba talks next week:

[Rabin] In Taba we want to reach a detailed, clear, and lucid agreement. In everything relating to Gaza-Jericho First, the talks will be based on the Cairo understandings. If they backtrack.... [pauses] Everything we said hinges on compliance with all the components of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 6 January adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that there is no territorial controversy or security problems between Israel and Jordan, but Amman is unwilling to be the first party to sign a peace treaty with Israel. During his visit to Na'ama and the Allenby Bridge, the prime minister also said he is opposed to discussing the permanent agreement at this point, not only because of our commitment to the Madrid conference but also because he is opposed to uprooting settlements and to negotiations on the issue of Jerusalem. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the prime minister told Na'ama settlers that he understands their grievances, but Israel is interested in solving the conflict with the Palestinians."]

Shahal: Taba Talks To Focus on Police Issue

TA0601095094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the most important issue to be discussed at the Taba talks next week will be the relationship between the Israeli security forces and the Palestinian police.

Minister Shahal, addressing the Israeli Association for Industrial Security this morning, said the agreement between Israel and Jordan is finalized and there is absolutely no controversy between the two countries on any issue. Shahal expressed the opinion that King Husayn is waiting for the right time to announce the signing of a peace treaty with Israel, and this could happen after the Clinton-al-Asad meeting.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i adds that Minister Shahal denounced the planting of the bombs near the Peace Now offices in New York. He said the police will strive to uncover elements such as those who have tried to smuggle arms into Israel.

Parties React to Statement on Palestinian State

TA0501182494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The opposition National Religious Party and Tzomet have presented a no-confidence motion to the government following a statement by Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur that after the five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule, a Palestinian state could be established in the territories. The two parties say Tzur's comments contradict statements Prime Minister Rabin made in the Knesset.

Beilin: Arab Economic Boycott Becoming 'Void'

TA0501180194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said the Arab economic boycott is becoming void and even the Arab states are changing their attitude toward it. Arab businessmen are visiting Israel to investigate the possibility of investing here. Four Arab states—Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, and Morocco—have expressed a willingness to host the economic committees in the multilateral negotiations. There is a readiness by multinational companies, which had previously caved in to the boycott, to invest in Israel. Even in Japan—the largest state to support the boycott—there has been a revolutionary change and Japanese businessmen and companies plan to invest in Israel. He said, however, that he still finds it hard to foresee an Arab League decision to annul the boycott. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin made the remarks in answer to a motion in the Knesset.

IDF Commander on 'Terror' Activity in Lebanon

TA0601115694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command, said yesterday that he believes the terrorists will try to step up their attacks in southern Lebanon in anticipation of the Clinton-al-Asad summit in Geneva on 16 January.

According to Maj. Gen. Mordekhay, before such summits there is always an escalation in Hizballah activities and attempts to cause unrest in the area.

Senior military sources in the Northern Command assessed that the rejectionist front organizations will also attempt to step up attacks against the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the security zone in the week

ahead. The IDF is consequently raising its level of alert in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

According to Maj. Gen. Mordekhay, Syria must curb the terror activity: "Just as Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said, Syria wields the decisive influence over Hizballah. The most important thing the prime minister and the chief of staff have said is that if Syria makes a real effort, it can curtail terrorism along our northern border." [passage omitted]

According to Gen. Mordekhay, Hizballah has started firing from villages north of the security zone over the past few weeks, in violation of the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability.

According to Mordekhay, "during 1993, 124 terrorists were killed and dozens of others were wounded, Operation Accountability included. Our forces in the north are attaining their objectives. I believe the northern border settlements enjoy a high level of security thanks to IDF activity in the security zone and along the international border."

IDF Soldier Stabbed; Assailant Killed

TA0601102294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was stabbed at the French Hill junction in north Jerusalem a short time ago. The assailant was shot and killed by Border Police soldiers. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the wounded soldier, who was taken to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital, is listed in moderate condition.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the terrorist jumped the soldier, stabbed him several times, grabbed his personal weapon, and fled the site. Border Police soldiers pursued him in a jeep and shot and killed him.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 6 January reports that "an Arab youth was wounded by IDF gunfire in the Jabalyah refugee camp this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports the youth threw a burning tire at an IDF outpost. The soldiers manning the outpost, who suspected that a bomb was planted in the tire, shot the youth and wounded him in the leg. The youth was evacuated to a Gaza hospital for treatment."]

IDF Shoots Arab Dead in Gaza Strip

TA0501153194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Iyad al-Hinawi, 20, of Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip, was shot dead by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] an hour ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the incident occurred near the tent where the Rihan family, whose relative was killed two days ago by soldiers, is mourning. When an IDF patrol was stoned, soldiers opened fire, killing one of the stone throwers.

Our correspondent notes that today security forces captured three wanted men, members of a Fatah Hawks cell. They were questioned and released.

IDF To Pave Road With Jordan Bypassing Jericho

TA0501180294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has recently begun to expand the border road with Jordan prior to the paving of a temporary road which bypasses Jericho. David Levi, head of the Jordan Rift Valley Regional Council, said that the bypass road would be built east of Almog junction near Bet Ha'arava up to the settlement of Na'ama. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman has learned that a permanent road closer to Jericho will be built later. The length of the permanent road will be 17 km. It will have two bridges and will cost 40 million shekels.

UK's Hurd Arrives in Amman, Confers With King

JN0501211494 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] His majesty the king received this evening British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Hurd arrived in Amman this evening on the third leg of the Middle East journey. Hurd said on arrival that his talks with his majesty the king and with Jordanian officials will deal with the Middle East peace process. He said: Jordan and Britain have always been in close touch on many issues and will continue to do so.

Received by Prime Minister

JN0601134394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today received in his office the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways to bolster them in all fields. They also exchanged views on recent developments in the peace process. Dr. al-Majali explained Jordan's firm stand and commitment to both the bilateral and multilateral levels of the peace process—a commitment based on the resolutions of international legitimacy until just, comprehensive, and lasting peace is achieved in the region. He also praised the United Kingdom's efforts in this regard.

For his part, Hurd praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to achieve peace, stressing the importance of the role played by Jordan in its capacity as a factor of security and stability in the region.

The meeting was attended by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Jordanian ambassador in London; the British ambassador in Amman; and the delegation accompanying the guest secretary.

Moreover, the Jordanian and British sides today held talks at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation dealing with the water situation in Jordan. The Jordanian side was attended by Dr. Hisham al-Khatib, minister of water and irrigation, while the British side was headed by Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary.

Dr. al-Khatib said the talks focused on Jordan's water situation and the talks on water issues which Jordan held within the peace process, whether on the bilateral or multilateral levels. He added that talks also covered relations between the two friendly countries in all fields, especially British technical aid to Jordan in order to exploit the waters of Qa' Disah in southern Jordan and to transfer these waters for use in northern Jordan.

The minister noted that EC countries, especially Britain, are aware that Jordan is suffering an acute shortage of water due to natural factors and because it is not receiving its fair share of the waters from the al-Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers. This was confirmed by all international studies in this field.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives for Coordination Meetings

Qaddumi Denies 'Crisis' in Ties

JN0501203694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, made the following statement to our correspondent upon his arrival in Amman this morning:

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] First comes coordination. We are one people and one country. In fact, coordination and cooperation are a must. We should explore the future and how the situation will be in the Middle East. The Jordanians and the Palestinians are one people and have common interests. The aim is to organize these common interests in the future, to draw up rules for them, and to reinforce the brotherly ties between us. The previous experiences we have faced as one unit cannot be seen as just a relationship between one country and another, but as one among the members of one family. This is our concept of the work for which we have come and for the future we want to work out together, God willing.

[Reporter] There is a crisis in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. What are the dimensions of this crisis?

[Qaddumi] There is no crisis. This is, regrettably, the creation of Arab or non-Arab media. There is, in fact, a persisting desire to carry out joint action because we are moving toward a serious stage. This esplains his majesty's statement that stressed desire to base relations on sound foundations. This, in fact, is our opinion and our trend. Therefore, what is being portrayed as a crisis is not a crisis at all. There is not crisis among the members of one family. [end recording]

Delegations Discuss Ties, Peace Talks

JN0501143794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] A Jordanian delegation, led by Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and higher education minister, and a Palestinian delegation, led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, held a round of talks at the Foreign Ministry today. They discussed relations between Jordan and the PLO, issues pertaining to the peace march, and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on these issues.

In a statement to the press following the meeting, Dr. al-Tall stressed the fated and special relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. He pointed out that these relations are firm, perpetual, and strong and that they are not only based on pan-Arab ties as Arabs, but also on other ties imposed by circumstances, geographical borders, demographic factors, and common destiny.

He added that there is complete agreement over principles and goals between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations, explaining that today's talks dealt with the

policies through which these principles are translated into reality. He also noted that the talks were held at the highest level of responsibility, cordiality, and brotherhood, pointing out that the talks would resume this evening. He then expressed his hope that the talks will produce satisfactory results acceptable to all of us. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings includes Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Talal Sat'an al-Hasan. The Palestinian side includes Jamal al-Surani, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Yasir 'Amr, Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, 'Umar al- Khatib, and 'Umar al-Shak'ah.

King Confers With Qaddumi, Delegation

JN0501200894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, they exchanged views on latest developments in the peace process and the importance of true and serious coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides in light of the bases of His Majesty King Husayn's two recent speeches and in light of objective bases that will serve and secure the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

For his part, Faruq Qaddumi stressed the importance of Jordan's constructive role in defending the Palestine question, as well as the services this country extended to the Palestinian people and their just cause. He said that the PLO admits the courageous Jordanian role in defending the rights of the Palestinian people and extending services to them in various areas. He also referred to Jordan's role in absorbing Palestinian immigrants despite its limited material potential. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Hashemite Court Chief His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Deputy Prime Minister Sa'id al-Tall, and Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani. It was attended on the Palestinian side by Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Yasir 'Amr, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Al-'Anani Views Talks

JN0501205294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 5 Jan 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] The Jordanian and the Palestinian officials held another round of talks this evening. Minister of Information Dr. Jawad al-'Anani said the talks were open and candid, but that tangible results have yet to be achieved.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] Well, I think that the meetings were very open, very candid. They dealt with down-to-earth issues. It was very much businesslike. We have agreed that we agree on the basic principles and the guiding aims for our internal dialogue. However, we feel that this is necessary but not sufficient. What is sufficient is to arrive at tangible and practical steps that people can feel, make a difference of their own lives. And we assure them that the process of negotiations is going to ensure their own concerns.

[Reporter] Dr. al-'Anani: Do you think that the king's last speech has put a lot more pressure on the PLO to deal with the issues that are still in the air with the Palestinians and Jordanians?

[Al-'Anani] I do not need to analyze his majesty's motives. I think that the speech of his majesty was very clear, very candid. He was showing a great deal of concern that we need more coordination, and this coordination is not only a Jordanian demand, but it is a Jordanian as well as a Palestinian demand.

[Reporter] When do you expect the signing?

[Al-'Anani] We expect that we should continue to negotiate. [end recording]

Further on Al-'Anani's Comments

JN0601120494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee has concluded its second round of talks at the Foreign Ministry. Details are in the following report by our political affairs correspondent:

The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee this evening concluded its second round of talks at the Foreign Ministry. In statements to reporters, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, said:

[Begin recording] [al-'Anani] In fact, our talks were very serious and candid. The issues were discussed in detail in order to arrive at tangible, practical, and implementable steps that people can feel. Therefore, at this stage, we will meet again tomorrow morning and perhaps tomorrow afternoon and even on Friday morning so that we can arrive at decisive results, because this is the purpose of these talks at this level. We are also taking into consideration that people are awaiting tangible results, which require very serious and clear talks that define the frameworks and practical steps. We both agreed that if we do not arrive at such results, then we will not have met the people's expectations.

[Reporter] So, Mr. Abu-Ahmad [al-'Anani], are there any pending issues between the two sides?

[Al-'Anani] We are discussing all issues that are of importance to both sides, especially at this stage.

[Reporter] Did the discussions focus on specific issues?

[Al-'Anani] Of course, we discussed many basic issues, including economic and banking issues, issues that deal

with the negotiations on water, evacuees, and refugees, the Jerusalem issue, as well as the need to coordinate stands on these issues and others that deal with the transitional phase and what is currently being negotiated in this regard to serve the two parties' interests. We, of course, have joint interests and what harms the Palestinians harms us and what benefits our brothers and kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip benefits us here in Jordan. [end recording]

Meetings Resume 6 Jan

JN0601131794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The Jordanian and Palestinian sides resumed their meetings at the Foreign Ministry today. These meetings are a continuation of the two working sessions held yesterday. Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, the deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, headed the Jordanian side, while Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, headed the Palestinian side.

The second session was held yesterday during which the two sides discussed bilateral relations, issues dealing with the peace process, and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on these issues.

Analysis on Syrian Stand on Peace, Palestinians

JN0601085694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6-7 Jan 93 pp 1, 5

["Analysis" by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's ultimatum to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) this week was a last-ditch attempt to bring back the concept of comprehensiveness to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, analysts and observers believe.

In his address Tuesday [4 January] to senior officers from the Public Security General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments, His Majesty King Husayn expressed his "hope (that) we will reach a comprehensive peace with the help of all parties."

Jordanian officials privately say that the Kingdom was worried that the lack of coordination among the Arab parties to Middle East peace negotiations was leading to the disintegration of the concept of comprehensiveness, on which these negotiations were initially based, allowing Israel a chance to divide and rule.

According to those officials, the Kingdom has come under Syrian pressure to drop attempts to bring the PLO back into Arab coordination ranks and work instead towards Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese coordination without the Palestinians.

In view of the fact that the "separate Oslo accord" is going nowhere, the message from Syria was that the upcoming summit meeting in Geneva between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton could be the the right opportunity for the three countries to show PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that they have the upper hand.

But the question, according to officials and analysts, was whether Jordan would join such a coalition and give up on attempts to convince the PLO to coordinate with the Kingdom.

Analysts believe that this development placed Jordan in a difficult position since Mr. 'Arafat had been continually procrastinating over sending his aides to Amman to attend coordination committee talks scheduled to have started last June but which never did.

This sentiment was actually expressed by Minister of Information Jawad al-'Anani this week when he said Jordan feared that the lack of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination would force the country "to react in a way that is not in line with its overall policy."

To drop the idea of a comprehensive settlement and allow different Arab parties to reach separate peace accords with Israel would have defied Jordan's policy of waiting until all tracks have concluded their negotiations with Israel successfully before signing accords simultaneously.

Since Jordanians feel almost certain that President al-'Asad will get something from his meeting with President Clinton on Jan. 16, they felt that they were running out of time in bringing Arab parties to the talks to coordinate their steps and exchange information on developments on their tracks.

Senior Jordanian officials are constructing scenarios for progress on the Syrian front. They believe that while Syria is not expected to give in on its declared intention to accept full withdrawal, it may accept a time-tabled agenda leading to that conclusion if it receives American assurances that would guarantee its economic and security interests.

If this turns out to be true, one seasoned analyst said, Syria might be seen to be willing to give up its Arab leadership role if the Americans can station American or international troops on the border, maintain Syrian interests in Lebanon and allow Damascus to reap economic benefits of peace.

But Jordan also believes that if this happens without achieving tangible progress on the Palestinian front, there will be the risk of Arab-Israeli negotiations running into two separate "courses"—Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli and Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli—instead of the four streamlined tracks.

The Jordanians fear that such a scenario, if it actually develops, will further weaken the Arab position and give Israel the opportunity to "hunt down" each Arab party individually.

This fear was also expressed by Dr. al-'Anani when he told a group of journalists earlier this week that the Kingdom feared ending up "with separate courses rather than tracks."

And while Dr. al-'Anani was willing to concede that these separate courses are historically present because of common interests, he feared that lack of coordination among the Jordanians and Palestinians would create inertia by making (the parties) rivals and competitive in dealing with Israel at the expense of each other.

In a statement he made Tuesday, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam referred to the comprehensiveness of the negotiations by saying "the concept of comprehensiveness cannot be ignored (and has to come) in coordination with Lebanon and Jordan."

Mr. Khaddam did not mention the PLO as part of the comprehensive solution but criticised it for signing the declaration of principles (DoP) and predicted that "Israel would emerge the winner" as a result of this move.

The Syrians did not hide their displeasure with Jordan over the latter's agenda agreement with Israel, which was signed in Washington on Sept. 14, not only because they might have thought it was a prelude to reaching a separate peace treaty with the Jewish state, but also because it gave a diplomatic and political cover for the Sept. 13 agreement between the PLO and Israel.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', at the time, issued what was seen as a warning to Jordan, but the issue was diffused soon afterwards when King Husayn visited President al-Asad in Damascus and reportedly assured him that Amman would not go it alone despite all the pressures it faced from the Americans and Israelis.

Officials and analysts here believe that Jordan cannot forge coordination with Syria and that this was made clear in His Majesty's statement Tuesday when he said that he had spoken about coordination with Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. "We have proven our commitment to work together. No one should believe that we will go it alone in this regard."

But while the Kingdom is committed to coordination with Syria, politicians agree that Jordan could not respond positively to dropping the PLO from coordination efforts because "it is a complicated and intricate relationship."

The King's virtual ultimatum to the PLO, while indicative of "tension" in relations between the two leaderships, can and should "serve interests of both Jordan and the PLO without hurting relations with Syria," one official said.

Canadian Official Received by Al-Majali

JN0501125694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today received in his office at the Prime Ministry Bob Rae, the premier of the Canadian province of Ontario, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the need to reinforce, promote, and develop these relations in all spheres. They also discussed ways to reinforce economic relations as well as the peace process, the stages it reached, and the obstacles it is facing, especially on the Jordanian track, such as the refugee problem, waters, and evacuees.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar also attended the meeting.

Meets With King

JN0501164794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Bob Rae, the premier of the Canadian Province of Ontario. During the meeting, they exchanged views on various regional and international issues and the latest developments in the peace process. They also reviewed relations between Jordan and Canada and ways of promoting them in various areas.

His majesty the king stressed Jordan's efforts to push the peace process forward in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. The meeting was attended by the Canadian ambassador to the Royal Hashemite Court.

Crown Prince Hasan Departs for London 5 Jan

JN0501165194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn bid farewell to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who left Amman for London today on a visit to the United Kingdom lasting several days. Prince Hasan will meet with several British officials. His highness is accompanied by several Jordanian officials. [passage omitted]

House Speaker To Leave for Damascus 6 Jan

JN0601104794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—PETRA—House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri will leave Amman for Damascus today on a visit during which he will meet with Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah.

During the visit, talks will cover a number of issues dealing with the Arab Parliamentary Union as well as some issues between the two fraternal countries.

Speaker Birri Receives Hizballah Delegation

NC0501204294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] This evening, at his house in Barbus, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri received a Hizballah delegation of Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah; the head of the Hizballah Political Bureau, Shaykh Husayn Khalil; and Wafiq Safa'. The meeting was attended by Housing and Cooperative Minister Mahmud Abu-Hamdan and Amal Movement Political Bureau member Ahmad al- Ba'labakki. The discussion dealt with developments in general and the Israeli escalation in the south.

Judge Orders Arrest of 2 Suspected Terrorists

NC0501182094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] First Military Investigations Judge Riyad Tali' has issued two arrest warrants against Fadi 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Jayshiyah and Mar'i Ahmad 'Ali. The two are suspected of carrying out terrorist acts with explosives and of handling unlicensed radio equipment in Tripoli.

Iranian Envoy Criticizes Vatican Move on Israel

NC0501175194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Yext] Iranian Ambassador in Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh has attacked what he called international attempts to legitimize the Zionist enemy and noted the Vatican's efforts in this respect. He said this was bad and wrong both tactically and strategically.

The Iranian ambassador made these remarks after visiting acting Mufti Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani.

Israelis Shell Iqlim al-Tuffah Hills in South

NC0501182194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Israeli forces stationed in al-Zaffatah shelled the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills this morning. The shelling covered Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi.

This afternoon, the Israeli forces in the al-Tuhrah position raked the woods around the post with mortars and machine guns.

Prime Minister Receives Lebanon's al-Hariri

JN0501152794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1000 today. Their discussions dealt with the relations of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them in all fields in the service and the interest of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

An official session of talks began at 1100 today between the Syrian side under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Lebanese side under Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for Economic Affairs; Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani, minister of Irrigation; Engineer Kamil al-Baba, minister of Electricity; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for Foreign Affairs; Dr. Nadir al-Nabulsi, minister of Oil and Mineral Resources; and directors and advisers attended the session on the Syrian side. On the Lebanese side, it was attended by Ilyas Hubayqah, minister of Water and Electricity, and Marun Asmar, chairman of the Lebanese Electricity Corporation.

The two sides discussed economic cooperation between the two countries and the joint ventures that are being studied, particularly in the field of power generation. The two sides also discussed the scopes of joint cooperation in all fields, in light of priorities and needs, to enhance the bonds of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two countries and to attain the two fraternal people's interests.

Talabani, Burkay Prevented From Meeting Ocalan

NC0401162194 Istanbul AYDINLIK in Turkish 2 Jan 94 p 11

[Report by Hikmet Cicek]

[Text] Ankara—It has been learned that the Syrian authorities have rejected a request from Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and Kemal Burkay, secretary general of the Kurdistan Socialist Party [PSK], for a meeting with the leader of the PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] Abdullah Ocalan.

According to the available information, Talabani and Burkay went to the Syrian capital Damascus last week to meet Ocalan. It was said that Talabani and Burkay were going to propose to Ocalan to declare a cease-fire on the eve of the local elections [in Turkey]. Syria's refusal to allow the meeting to take place opened the way to some speculation.

PUK's representative in Ankara confirmed that Talabani went to Syria last week and stayed there for "a very brief period." The representative said that he has no information as to whether a meeting was held with Apo [alias for Abdullah Ocalan].

It has been learned that PUK leader Jalal Talabani has now gone to Saudi Arabia from Syria. It was reported that Saudi Arabia has extended an official invitation to Talabani. The meeting with Talabani was interpreted as Saudi Arabia assuming an active interest in the Kurdish problem.

It has also been learned that Semdin Sakik, PKK's Amed [area covering Diyarbakir, Bingol, and Mus] provincial commander, has resigned from his post and left for Germany. It was reported that Sakik, who had kidney problems, resigned his position voluntarily and that a new commander has been "appointed" for Amed. The PKK circles ascribe reports of "differences" between Sakik and Ocalan to the "psychological warfare" being waged by the state.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar, Dostam Demand Rabbani's Resignation

NC0601065194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] A representative of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami in Islamabad announced that General Dostam and Golboddin Hekmatyar have given President Borhanoddin Rabbani 48 hours to resign.

According to the Central News Unit from Islamabad, the statement by the opposition groups asked the political groups in Afghanistan to meet to decide on a replacement for Borhanoddin Rabbani and to implement an immediate cease-fire.

Kabul and some other cities in Afghanistan have been the venue of intense internecine fighting in the past few days.

Four-Point Statement Released

NC0501192494 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Report by Ismael Iraqi]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 5 (AFP)—A loose grouping of rival Afghan forces called Wednesday for the resignation of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, as heavy fighting raged through the capital for the fifth day.

"Rabbani should resign in the next 48 hours in order to have peace and stability in Afghanistan," began the four-point statement released in Islamabad.

The communique was issued under the names of Rabbani's main rivals Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, ex-communist militiaman General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, and two other factions, calling themselves the "Supreme Coordinating Council of forces fighting Rabbani."

The other three points called for an assembly of mojahedin leaders to nominate a replacement for Rabbani, the establishment of an immediate interim government, and the appointment of joint commissions to run the Finance, Interior and Foreign Ministries.

The communique, released by Hekmatyar's Islamabad spokesman Mengal Hoseyn, also "welcomed" any delegations from Pakistan, Iran or Saudi Arabia to come to the embattled Kabul capital to evacuate those wounded in the bloody five-day fighting.

Factional fighting has plagued Afghanistan since the mojahedin overthrew the Afghan communist rule of president Najibollah in April 1992.

An Afghan Ministry of Public Health official Tuesday estimated that more than 1,000 people—mostly civilians—have yet to receive medical treatment for shrapnel and gunshot injuries.

Although the joint communique released in Islamabad implied it, Mengal Hoseyn was careful to distance the battlefield relationship between Hezb and Dostam's Junbish or National Islamic Movement.

"So far there is no coalition—we are fighting Rabbani forces and Dostam is fighting Rabbani forces," Mengal Hoseyn said.

He said Hezb was fighting in many different parts of Kabul, including "in the vicinity of Bala Hissar," which is the ancient fortress guarding the eastern approaches to Kabul, and Dostam's main military post in the capital.

Bala Hissar has been under severe jet bombardment Wednesday, and it is believed that Hezb forces have joined with Dostam's defenders there in order to hold off an infantry attack by the Shora-e-Nazar forces of Rabbani's strongman, former Defence Minister 'Ahmed Shah Masud.

In coordination with retaliatory jet attacks on Kabul by Dostam's airforce based in northern Mazar-e-Sharif, Hezb gunners subjected the city to a fresh wave of artillery salvos Wednesday evening from their mountain strongholds in the southeast.

In this shelling, from Zamborak mountain close to Bala Hissar, the AFP office in the northern suburbs took a direct hit which caused extensive damage but no staff were injured.

This intensified artillery attack by Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], combined with the unexpected participation of Junbish's jets, is seen as a move to counter intensive military pressure from Masud's fighters.

The sound of light weapons heard inside the central city late Wednesday could be a sign of the shifting frontlines, and the ever changing fortunes of the factions battling for control of the Afghan capital.

Iranian Embassy Tries to Broker Cease-Fire

LD0601114994 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 5, IRNA—Iranian Embassy in Kabul has launched serious efforts to broker a cease-fire among the Afghan rival factions, Iran's ambassador to Kabul, Gholamreza Haddadi, told reporters here Wednesday.

Haddadi stated that as far as negotiations with different Afghan rival factions are concerned, they seem to be ready to accept mediation for establishment of a cease-fire.

"Afghan rival factions believe that none of the country's political parties should be excluded from the future government of Afghanistan," Haddadi added.

Rabbani Welcomes Mediation

LD0601115394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Our country's ambassador to Afghanistan [Gholamreza Haddadi] said today that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran's mediation; he has also announced that he is ready to cooperate in an effort to solve Afghanistan's political problems.

According to the report of the Central News Unit from Kabul, the ambassador, who was speaking after a meeting with the Afghan president, spoke of more than 2,000 wounded and killed in the battles during the past six days. He added: Under present conditions the most humanitarian and Islamic measure to be adopted in Afghanistan is to put an end to hostilities.

Mr. Haddadi stressed that the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is making every effort to contact the leaders of warring factions in an attempt to prepare the ground for negotiations among them.

Hekmatyar Would Welcome Pakistan as Mediator

BK0501155594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 5 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar would welcome any visit from Pakistan aimed at restoring peace in Kabul, his official representative here said Wednesday.

"Hekmatyar has always welcomed visitors from Pakistan," Mangal Hoseyn said in a statement on the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] leader's response to a planned mediation trip to Kabul by Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali.

The foreign minister had to put off a scheduled visit after fighting broke out in Kabul on New Year's Day.

"We respect Pakistan's concern for peace and stability in Afghanistan and are always ready to receive any delegation from the brotherly country," Hoseyn said.

Tehran Reports Dostam, Hekmatyar 'Victories'

LD0501132394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Announcer] The situation in Afghanistan is still reported as tense. Clashes between rival groups continue in various areas. Our correspondent reports from Kabul on the latest situation on the various battle fronts.

[Correspondent] The battle continues between the warring factions. According to reports from north Afghanistan, the forces of General Dostam, the leader of National Islamic Movement, have scored some victories in Mazar-e Sharif.

According to the same report, the joint forces of General Dostam and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] of Golboddin Hekmatyar have driven back from Mazar-e Sharif and the town's airport the forces under the command of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the chairman of the Supervisory Council and the former defense minister. According to reports from Mazar-e Sharif, the situation is at present calm.

Hezb-e Eslami sources in Charasiab said today: Fighter aircraft of General Dostam, in their first sorties from Mazar-e Sharif airport in five days, three times bombed the Bagram military airbase, 60 km northeast of Kabul. According to the same sources, as a result of the bombings, the fighter aircraft of the Supervisory Council were today unable to take off and bomb the positions of the forces of General Dostam and Hezb-e Eslami in Kabul.

A spokesman for Hezb-e Eslami in south Kabul said today: A helicopter carrying General Momen, one of the most important commanders in the Supervisory Council, was shot down near Mazar Sharif and Hayratan. The sources said: General Momen was killed in the incident.

In Kabul as well, heavy battles continue between the forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the joint forces of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and General Dostam. Each side is trying to penetrate the positions of the other but, on the whole, the forces of the Supervisory Council have so far had the upper hand in the battles in Kabul.

In Kabul, forces loyal to Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani, who are being supported by forces of Rasul Sayyaf's Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami-e, enjoy the control of the capital's key political and governmental centres.

Meanwhile, for the fifth consecutive day, battles are still in progress for the capture of positions held by forces of Jonbesh-e Melli-Eslami [Islamic-National Movement] in a residential complex in southeast Kabul—known as Microryan—the Bala-Hesar heights, the Maranjan hill, and also parts of the Kabul airports. At the same time, the joint forces of General Dostam and Hezb-e Eslami are trying to approach the Kabul airport from two directions.

Battles in Kabul have killed or wounded hundreds, and have left many people homeless. The people of Kabul in general are facing a very grave situation.

Amid all this, the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul has intensified its efforts to mediate between the warring factions. In an interview today, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Kabul said: We have managed to meet a number of leaders and senior representatives of Afghanistan's Jihadi parties and political groups, including Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, and a senior representative of the Supervisory Council. Through these meetings, we have prepared the ground for the establishment of a ceasefire in Kabul.

[Announcer] According to our correspondent's report, the Kabul airport was this morning brought under the full control of the Defense Ministry forces. On the basis of this report, in today's battles in Kabul airport, the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud captured 40 fighters loyal to General Dostam.

Hezb-e-Eslami Denies Pakistan Claim on Fighting

BK0601092994 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 6 Jan 94 p 1,8

["F.P." report]

[Text] The Hezb-e-Eslami Afghanistan has expressed surprise at the Foreign Office claim that the Hezb was not among the parties fighting against President Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul.

A senior Hezb spokesman Nawab Saleem while commenting on the foreign Office statement, said in Peshawar on Wednesday that the claim was not understandable. "It is rank unawareness of the realities," Saleem said.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad on Wednesday that the Hezb-e-Eslami was not taking part in the current war in Kabul. The spokesman further said that fighting was continuing between the forces of Commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud and Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostam.

The Hezb spokesman said that the statement was in clash with the previous impartial stand of Islamabad on the Afghan issue. "The fact of the matter is that the Hezb was attacked by the Rabbani forces and Shoora-e-Nazar in Kabul without any provocation." Saleem said, adding, "the Hezb had to retaliate in its defence.

The other forces, who were already fed up with the dictatorial policies of Rabbani and Mas'ud, also took up arms to get rid of such a rule, Saleem explained. He said that his party was not able to understand the motive behind the statement against the Hezb-e-Eslami.

AL-HAYAH Reports on 'Violent' Clashes in Kabul

94P50074A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Text] Peshawar—The most violent fighting that the Afghan capital has seen in six months continued yesterday. The belligerent parties used heavy artillery, missiles, and aircraft in the battles, which broke out day before yesterday between President Borhanoddin Rabbani's forces on the one hand and General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam's Uzbek militias and the parties allied with Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami on the other.

Local sources spoke of "hundreds of dead and wounded" in the clashes, and medical sources were not at first able to broadcast an official count due to the continued fighting. however, they commented that 70 people were killed and almost 700 wounded. The sources expected the count to rise, especially since the president's side used aircraft to bomb Bala Hesar Palace in the capital, where Dostam's forces are concentrated.

Sadeq Tashkari, one of President Rabbani's aides, told AL-HAYAH that responsibility for the fighting lay on the shoulders of the Uzbek militias, which previously supported the Communists and hold strategic positions in Kabul. He said the Hezb-e Eslami and the Shi'ite Hezb-e Wahdat forces allied with it entered the battle at the side of the militias afterward.

The presidential official mentioned that President Rabbani's Jam'iyat-e Eslami forces, led by former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, had been able to repel the attackers. However, Hezb-e Eslami sources strongly denied this and said the attacking forces had taken over major strategic areas in Kabul and that the fighting is concentrated around the Presidential Palace. Meanwhile, General Fowzi, a commander of Dostam's militias, said they had captured the radio and television station, the Defense Ministry, and the president's Central Corps General Headquarters.

President Rabbani day before yesterday called for a jihad against his adversaries. he described the current battles as being "a new stage in the jihad that cannot be distinguished from the past 14 years" against the former Communist regime and the Soviet forces that invaded Afghanistan to support it. He said the goal of the alliance hostile to him "is to defend the cause of former Communist President Babrak Karmal." He described the Kabul attackers as "Karmal gangs."

The Hezb-e Eslami responded with a communique yesterday carrying counter-charges against Rabbani for cooperating with former Communists in the current fighting in Kabul.

Tehran radio said the Iranian Embassy in Kabul was hit yesterday by several shells for the second time in the space of 24 hours, and that there were no losses among its employees. Iran announced Saturday its "deep regret" for the new clashes, which have broken out in Kabul. It requested of all sides "rapid action to put an end to these battles by peaceful means."

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iran "is ready to intervene and participate in putting an end to the clashes."

Correspondent on 3 Jan Fighting

94P50075A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Text] Peshawar, London—The clashes in the Afghan capital intensified yesterday and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's forces continued their attempts to take control of President Borhanoddin Rabbani's headquarters. Hezb-e Eslami, led by Hekmatyar, distributed statements in the name of the "Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Jihad," which demanded "revolution against the current regime."

Sources close to Hekmatyar told AL-HAYAH that the "Coordination Council" is an opposition political front that includes, besides the Uzbek militias (led by General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam), the Hezb-e Eslami, the Shi'ite Hezb-e Wahdat (supported by Tehran) led by 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, and the Islamic National Front led by Sibghatollah Mojaddedi, in addition to other field commanders.

This [front] forms what appears to be a coup attempt against President Rabbani's regime, especially since the Hezb-e Eslami has disclosed its alliances and the parties supporting it under the banner of the opposition front.

Foreign correspondents in Kabul reported the opposition forces (particularly the Hezb-e Eslami and the militias) pounded Kabul with hundreds of rockets and continued attacks on the government buildings in an attempt to capture them. It was reported that the clashes caused more than 80 dead and 800 wounded.

Until late last night, President Rabbani's forces, led by former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, still defended most of the government buildings. The correspondents reported from those near the president that he is in the Presidential Palace in southwestern Kabul. The Hezb-e Eslami announced that its forces had come within 200 km of the palace. [sentence as published]

An opposition statement described the events in Kabul as "a comprehensive popular revolution in which all the jihad's parties and sides and the field commanders and the armed forces were participating in all parts of the capital." The statement said that these forces "were indignant at Rabbani's and Mas'ud's policies, which are contrary to Islam." The opposition added in its statement that "these forces formed a council to coordinate the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan and agreed on the necessity of eliminating President Rabbani without any reservations. This was announced through the news media during a call for the commanders of the mojahedin factions to meet quickly and agree on forming an interim government. If Rabbani refuses, we call on the Afghan people to support this movement."

Mohammad Sadiq Tashkari, the Afghan president's adviser, told AL-HAYAH that the president's forces "have been able to deal with the attackers in Kabul and send them back to their positions in Bala Hesar and Tappeh-ye Maranjan." Tashkari disclosed that government aircraft yesterday bombed Bala Hesar and Chehar Asiab (Hekmatyar's headquarters) south of Kabul. Tashkari charged the prime minister with firing rockets at the capital.

AP reported that the Uzbek militias continued to tighten their control over the Kabul airport, which was being fiercely defended by Rabbani's supporters.

Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iat-e Eslami sources that AL-HAYAH spoke to reported that the two sides "have been able to bring more forces into Kabul, increasing the deterioration and bloodiness of the situation. Uzbek militia sources said they were able to capture the Jam'iat-e Eslami positions in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif in cooperation with other mojahedin factions. Nasim Mehdi, one of Dostam's aides, yesterday told reporters that his forces had been able to do that with the cooperation of all of the mojahedin parties, with the exclusion of the fighters of the Ettehad-e Eslami, led by 'Abd-Rabb Rasul Sayyaf. Mehdi disclosed that the commander of the Jam'iat-e Eslami, Mowlawi 'Alm, had joined the allied (opposition) forces.

The official spokesman for the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad told journalists that President Rabbani's forces had been able to capture the Mazar-e Sharif airport, but Pakistani diplomatic sources resident in Mazar-e Sharif told Islamabad by radio that Dostam's militias control the airport and are in possession of the city.

Gen. Homayun Fowzi, the Uzbek militias' representative in Kabul, said that they want a change in the political system in Kabul to be a change that is acceptable to all of the minorities. Fowzi added, "A single district cannot control Afghanistan," indicating the district of Panjshir, Mas'ud's headquarters (the real commander of Rabbani's forces).

Afghan sources expect fighting to flare up today if weather conditions improve, since the Uzbek militias were not able to use their aircraft in the battles. The same sources told AL-HAYAH that if the weather improves, the militias will resort to air raids on the Presidential Palace.

India

Spokesman on Clinton Letter to Kashmiri Leader

BK0601145294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] New Delhi says that it entirely shares the growing global interests on the strict observation of human rights. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that India is committed to strengthening the institutions relevant to the upholding of human rights in India.

Commenting on a reported letter from the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to one Dr. Ghulam Ali Fai of New York, the spokesman said that India trusts that when Mr. Clinton referred to respect for human rights, it was in the context of gross violation of human rights by militants and terrorists, aided and abetted from outside India.

Karimov Concludes 'Very Satisfactory' Visit

BK0501160894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] India and Uzbekistan have expressed the resolve to counter religious fundamentalism and terrorism. They have also signed six agreements in joint ventures, economic ties, trade, and science and technology to strengthen bilateral ties.

Addressing a joint press conference after the signing of the agreements in New Delhi, the visiting Uzbekistan president, Mr. Karimov, and Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao said the forces of extremism threatened the democratic and secular fabric of the two nations. Mr. Rao said that he had told Mr. Karimov that India is determined to fight cross-border terrorism. Mr. Karimov said his country believes in the principle of noninterference in internal affairs of other states and favors a settlement to the Kashmir issue through negotiations. Their discussion covered several matters, including bilateral cooperation and nonalignment. Mr. Karimov said there is a good scope for Indian enterprises to export consumer goods and set up joint ventures. His country is specially interested in importing tea, tobacco, and textiles from India. Mr. Narasima Rao disclosed that an Indian bank and a cultural center will start functioning in Uzbekistan shortly. He said India has also offered to assist him in training his personnel in banking, management and mass communication, and diplomacy. The agreement signed also covered postal and related matters, telecommunications, setting up of an Indo-Uzbek center for science and technology, transport, and transit.

The Uzbekistan president has described his visit to India as very satisfactory. He was talking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] before leaving for Tashkent today. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; and his cabinet colleagues were among those present at the ceremonial farewell.

Commentary Reviews Relations With Uzbekistan

BK0601051794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Commentary by T. Jayaraj]

[Text] Terrorism has developed into epidemic proportion the world over causing much concern to humanity as it subverts economic development and progress of nations. Reiteration to fight this menace rightly came from the visiting Uzbekistan president, Mr. Islam Karimov, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, when they addressed a joint press conference in New Delhi yesterday. The two leaders resolved to fight terrorism and counter religious fundamentalism for the well-being of their citizens. They also agreed that the forces of extremism threaten the democratic and secular fabric of the two nations.

This is exactly in confirmation with the erstwhile Soviet policy of supporting India's stand that recourse to violence leads nowhere and that any problem should be resolved through peaceful negotiations. As Uzbekistan discarded the totalitarian ideology and accepted the norms of multiparty system and diversity of opinion, it is now [willing] to seek meaningful cooperation with countries having the same perceptions. Mr. Karimov's three-day stay in the Indian capital as a follow up of Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Tashkent in May last year is a reassurance for the growing geopolitical relationship between the two Asian neighbors. During the talks, Mr. Karimov had with several Indian leaders both the countries came out with renewed vigor to tackle cross border terrorism and accelerate the pace of economic ties for mutual benefits.

The six agreements signed between the two leaders on joint ventures, economic ties, trade, and science and technology are expressions of the desire for strengthening the traditional good relations for faster economic progress of the two countries. Indeed, there is an urgent need to prevent conflicts and work towards expanding and developing regional and international cooperation. The first meeting of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission held in July last year and the measures it devised were efforts towards achieving this goal.

Economic cooperation is not simply for monetary benefits alone, but it provides a forum for consolidating views on promoting political stability and world peace. Today, a nation cannot grow in isolation. History has witnessed the Central Asian region as a major confluence of cultural and economic activity. It is hoped that the future will witness creative interaction between the two Asian neighbors.

Article Views Pakistan Nuclear Program

BK0601022694 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Dec 93 p 8

[By A.R. Deo: "Pakistan's Double-Speak"]

[Text] Pakistani authorities have often spoken with two voices on their country's nuclear programme. Generally it is described as a purely peaceful programme. But when it comes to reacting to US pressures on non-proliferation Pakistan stoutly defends it as being vital for its security typifying the inherent dilemma before Pakistani thinkers on many national issues. This, of course, does not surprise those who have followed the general Pakistani discourse on defence or foreign policy.

Nawaz Sharif also said during a National Assembly debate that the government will not be permitted to cap or to roll back the nuclear programme which was a guarantee of Pakistan's freedom and independence. In his winding-up remarks Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali said that he would continue to counter all

attempts at creating misunderstandings regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme. He reaffirmed that a political decision had been taken to use this capability for peaceful purposes only.

Shortly thereafter, Sadar Assef who was visiting Dhaka for the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Foreign Ministers' meeting shocked his audience by declaring that Pakistan would "continue with its nuclear programme as long as threat of war with its traditional rival India exists.... Nuclear capability should not be an exclusive privilege of the western world or India." At least one daily, THE MUSLIM, has questioned the wisdom of Sardar Assef's utterances. The current phase of debate on Pakistan's nuclear policy began with Benazir Bhutto's statement that the programme had been capped in 1990. Nawaz Sharif denounced any possibility of capping as an anti-national act.

Gen Aslam Beg, a former Chief of Army Staff, has now come out with a signed article in THE NATION . He recalls that it was an American, Richard Barlow, who had "unequivocally asserted" that Pakistan had acquired nuclear capability in 1987. The US Administration chose to ignore this report so long as Soviet forces remained in Afghanistan but used the same (Barlow report) to accuse Pakistan of having crossed the red light.

Gen Beg admitted openly that Pakistan "had embarked on all the nuclear steps simultaneously". These were: uranium enrichment up to 95 per cent and above; preparation of the device by integrating all its elements; laboratory tests of all the elements of the device; final test of the integrated system either by detonation (hot test) or without it through a cold test; developing the delivery system.

He also confirmed that Pakistan had developed this capacity in 1987 and added that the process of freezing the first stage of this programme had "actually started in January 1989, that is after a deliberate and conscious decision taken in a conference co-chaired by the then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the then Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto." There was thus "no substance" to Benazir's allegation that she was kept in the dark about Pakistan's nuclear programme.

According to Gen Beg, phase one of the programme was frozen at the 3 percent enrichment level. "Subsequently, phase two got automatically frozen because of lack of the basic material i.e. enriched weapon grade uranium. The process of freezing, disclosed Gen Beg, "continued during Nawaz Sharif's tenure. The United States is now intensifying the pressure on Pakistan to roll back its programme and exterminate the capability which Pakistan has acquired after years of toil and sacrifice."

Now Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, commonly considered as the father of the Pakistani bomb, has surfaced with his own cryptic observation that the programme was never capped or uncapped and directed further enquiries to the Chief of Army Staff [COAS]. Reminding his audience that he was still a government servant, he volunteered his opinion that no one can accept a thing detrimental to the country's security or defence nor must he do so. Dr Khan is mercifully silent on whether the COAS could agree to freezing (or roll-back) if he thought that doing so would not be detrimental to Pakistan's security or defence.

In the meantime Benazir has once again publicly reaffirmed Pakistan's determination not to roll back the nuclear programme since non-proliferation in South Asia was regional issue. Pakistan, she reiterated, will not sign the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] unless India also signs it.

With all these statements it is quite evident that Pakistan had acquired nuclear capability (crossed the red light) in 1987, that Washington was fully aware of it but chose to ignore this fact in providing the annual certification to the US Congress, that Benazir was a party to the freezing decision taken in January 1989 and her disclaimer in Washington that she was kept in the dark about Pakistan's nuclear programme was disingenuous.

That Pakistan is in possession of one or more nuclear devices is indirectly confirmed by its acquisition of missiles from China. Caretaker Prime Minister Moir Qureshi had said on August 26 that "the short range tactical missiles Pakistan received were required to meet our legitimate self-defence requirements... As a sovereign state Pakistan cannot and will not sacrifice its right to take whatever step we deem necessary for its security." Qureshi later justified the nuclear programme as "inevitable for the defence of the country". Read in their totality, all these statements suggest that Pakistan has nuclear capability but probably of limited dimensions. It has also loosely talked of an Islamic Bomb thus giving its nuclear programme an extra-regional dimension.

Perhaps for its own reasons Washington is exaggerating the extent of Pakistan's nuclear programme. By encouraging Pakistan to harp on linking its signature on the NPT with India's, Washington is trying to confuse the issue. India does not sign the NPT for its iniquitous character, not for any regional reasons. By now there is enough evidence that the five-nation conference proposed by Nawaz Sharif in 1991 was in fact an American cuckoo's egg deposited in the Pakistani crow's nest. The proposal died an early death although efforts are repeatedly made to revive it.

If Pakistan wants to consolidate its security, it should engage in meaningful talks with India without laying the precondition that the so-called core issue of Kashmir must be tackled before any meaningful progress can be made in other areas. Even in the nuclear area, bilateral talks could prove more fruitful than the present tactics which in effect merely serve the American policy of consolidating its stranglehold on yet another field of technology. In fact, Pakistan should join India in demanding a more equitable and just international regime when the NPT Review Conference meets in 1995.

Pakistan's ISI Said Recruiting Sikh Youths

BK0501144594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 94 p 18

[Text] DERA BABA NANAK (Gurdaspur), 27 Dec—Director General of Punjab Police [DGP], Mr. Kanwarpal Singh Gill, today said that the Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan was trying to allure the Sikh youths residing in the European countries to come forward to give a new thrust to the Khalistan movement.

Mr. Gill was talking to newsmen at the Border Security Force outpost of Rossay where he said that the Pakistan agency had also promised arms training and financial help to these youth for achieving their goal.

Mr. Gill said that for this purpose a few training camps had been started by the ISI alongside the Afghanistan border. He also disclosed that all those Punjabi youths who had gone abroad on fake papers had been contacted by the Pakistani agency and these people were being motivated in the name of Khalistan.

Mr. Gill disclosed that nearly five hundred youth living in Europe have fallen prey to this trap of the ISI and the agency was now trying to bring them to Pak for training purposes.

Replying to a question the DGP said that about ten group leaders of the militants, including Pritam Singh Sekhon, Lakhbir Singh Rode and Wassan Singh Zaffarwal were still living in Pakistan.

The DGP also announced that special recruitment drive would be launched in the border districts from next month to recruit youth to the Punjab police.

He assured that the youth fulfilling the required qualification and physical fitness test would be recruited. The DGP also expressed happiness over holding of the rural sports in the area, which was once known as hotbed of militantcy. The DGP, while commenting on the operation clean up in the department, said that more than six deputy superintendent of police and over thirty lower ranking policemen had been sacked for their involvement in various cases of corruption.

When asked to comment that banning of dharnas [sit-in strike] and demonstrations of the Akalis amounted to infringement of their democratic rights as they were the recognised political parties. the DGP said that dharnas, demonstrations would be allowed in the State, provided militancy is completely wiped out.

Responding to another question, he said that though all the companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], which were sent to other States on the eve of recent Assembly elections had returned to the State "but they have not been pressed into service."

Speaking on the occasion, the IGP [Inspector General of Police] (border range), Mr. D.R. Bhatti, dwelt on the new role that the State police had undertaken in the service of humanity, including promotion of sports and cultural activities.

The SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] of Batala police district, Mr. Rohit Chaudhary, said that a number of steps had been taken to improve police interaction with the people and thus in the process shoulder a greater social responsibility of shaping a cleaner and stronger society.

A youth cell headed by the SP [Superintendent of Police] (Operations), he said, has been formed for implementing schemes for guiding the youths in matters calling for specific attention. The members of this cell are leading industrialists, college teachers and social workers. Camps at border towns to guide the youths on physical efficiency tests in the para-military forces and the police forces would be organised. The first camp will be held at Dera Baba Nanak on 7 Jan. to be followed by at Fatehgarh Churian on 16 Jan. and at Kalanaur on 25 Jan.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Made Chancellor

BK0501162694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed two bills making the chief minister chancellor of all the 13 universities in the state in place of the governor. Replying to the debate, the education minister, Mr. K. Ponnuswamy, allayed fears there would be interference in the day-to-day functioning of the universities. He claimed that it is well within the legislative competence and jurisdiction of the house to make the chief minister chancellor of the universities.

The Congress-I, the Janata Party, the CPI [Communist Party of India], the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the MGR Anna DMK [M.G. Ramachandran Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] parties have criticized the Tamil Nadu Government for violating federal principles and showing disrespect to the governor by bringing forward the bills. They expressed the view the bills would pave the way for encroachment in the day-to-day functioning of the universities.

Iran

Khamene'i Receives Turkmenistan's Niyazov

LD0601115994 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Thursday [6 January] called for maintenance and consolidation of the friendly relations between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Receiving the visiting Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov and his companions, Ayatollah Khamene'i said that expansion of cooperation in various fields will be to the benefit of Turkmenistan and Iran.

There exist good cultural ties and common religious bonds and customs between the two nations, the supreme leader pointed out.

Terming the establishment of an independent government in Turkmenistan as a "divine blessing," the supreme leader expressed hope that the foundations of Turkmenistan's independence will grow stronger in the future.

The Turkmen president thanked the leader of the Islamic revolution for favouring promotion of Tehran-Ashgabat relations, and expressed confidence that bilateral relations will be broadened despite the wish of enemies of the two countries.

President Niyazov also referred to the construction of hundreds of mosques in his country over the past two years, saying the Turkmen people were reviving their past history and practicing their religion freely.

Postal, Telecommunications Pact Signed With Turkmenistan

LD0501201594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan signed their first postal and telecommunications agreement in Tehran.

According to the said agreement, a 480-channel telephone exchange, linking Tehran to Ashgabat, will be inaugurated tomorrow. The telephone link will provide direct telephone contacts between Iran and Turkmenistan. In addition, through that service the peoples of other Central Asian countries will also be able to have telecommunications contact with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the rest of the world.

Other points in the said protocol include establishment of regular postal services. The air services organization of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph & Telephone will handle letter and parcel mail between Tehran and Ashkabad. Yesterday the Turkmen communications minister inaugurated the first flight of the said postal service at Payam airport.

Afghan Envoy Blames Crisis on Ex-Communists

LD0501185394 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—Afghan Ambassador to Tehran Mohammad Kheyrkhah said here Wednesday [5 January] that remnants of the former communist regime of Afghanistan who have infiltrated mojahedin groups are responsible for the current clashes and insecurity in the country.

He said former members of the Parcham (flag) and Khalq (people) Parties and militias supporting them, misused the general amnesty in Afghanistan. "The Islamic government will no longer pardon the rebels who challenge the authority of the government," he warned.

Kheyrkhah added that the Afghan Government has never recognized the militias supporting General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

He was critical of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar who leads the Hezb-e Eslami and said he was trying to take advantage of any "illegal leverage" to strike a blow on the Islamic government.

According to the Afghan diplomat most of the mojahedin parties are firmly behind the Kabul government in the recent clashes which began four days ago.

President Rabbani's forces have mopped up central Kabul of Hekmatyar's and Dostum's forces and are going ahead with their cleaning up operations in the suburb of Kabul, he said.

Kheyrkhah said government forces have attacked Dostum's headquarters in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, captured the airport and forced Dostum to flee the city.

Foreign Ministry Decried on Lack of Afghan Truce

NC0601094894 Paris AFP in English 0832 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6 (AFP)—The Iranian Foreign Ministry has dragged its feet in trying to secure a truce between the warring factions in Afghanistan, the semi-official TEHRAN TIMES charged Thursday [6 January].

The English-language daily accused the ministry of acting "sluggishly" in undertaking a "not-so-successful" effort to secure a ceasefire in Kabul earlier this week.

"It could have launched an extensive diplomatic move through contacting the warring sides as well as regional countries in a bid to contain the war," it said. "This sluggishness is in no way justifiable."

Tehran said on Tuesday that the rival Afghan forces had agreed to a truce in response to an Iranian offer to evacuate some of the wounded from Kabul.

A spokesman said the representatives of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar had informed the foreign ministry of their acceptance.

However heavy fighting has been continuing for six days, with the forces of former communist general 'Abdol Rashid Dostam pounding Kabul from the air and ground on Thursday.

The forces of Dostam and Hekmatyar have been battling alongside each other for control of the capital in the worst fighting in Kabul in six months.

More than 2,000 people have been killed or wounded since the fighting began on Saturday.

U.S. Said Planning for Clash With Iran

NC0501183494 Tehran SALAM in Persian 21 Dec 93 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States—Repetition of Its Errors"]

[Text] In view of its military defeat in Somalia, the U.S. forces are in the process of withdrawing from that country and as a reaction to this defeat, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin has resigned. This is a clear indication of the impotence and decrepitude of the U.S. foreign policy as regards international affairs in the post Cold War era. THE WASHINGTON TIMES newspaper carried an analytical article with repetitive remarks regarding Iran which is evidence of the blind hostility and animosity of the U.S. echelons with regard to Iran. It appears that the U.S. analysts are seeking to compensate for the utter humiliation that they had to endure in their current defeat by initiating another psychological war!

The analyst of the aforementioned newspaper has cited a Pentagon source stating: "The U.S. planning for a possible clash with Iran began quite a while ago and war with Iran is inevitable, as Iran is considered a potential enemy of the United States; Washington takes Iran's strength very seriously." The Pentagon official has not specified the time frame for this war, but has stated: "The Pentagon echelons are assuming that there will be a juncture when Iran will take some action that will necessitate a reaction on the part of the United States."

In attempting to justify these allegations by the Pentagon officials, the newspaper analyst mentioned various instances that could prove to be possible pretexts for the United States to embroil itself in a conflict with Iran, such as an attempt against a CIA official's life, Iran's uncompromising attitude toward the Zionist regime's compromise [with the PLO] and has stressed: "Apparently, the United States is the only country in the world that takes the threat of Iran seriously." According to THE WASHINGTON TIMES, this U.S. Department of Defense official claimed: "In the past two years, Iran has purchased weapons worth billions of dollars and, apart from the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, Iran is the strongest country in the region today." This official has expressed his concern over the mounting spiritual clout of Iran among the Muslim countries of Africa and Asia, and even in Europe, stating: "The religious decree against Salman Rushdie is so harsh that it forced the U.S. President to apologize to the Muslims for the few minutes of his meeting with Rushdie in the White House."

As to the fact that plans for a possible U.S. clash with Iran began quite a while ago, there is not the slightest doubt. One can say that these plans began on the morning of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and since the inception of the Islamic movement, in fact. In the course of the last years, U.S. officials have always considered war with Iran imminent and have even experimented with it in instances such as the "Tabas incident." [attempt to liberate the U.S. hostages]

Thus, the mention of such allegations is not new for Iranians, as Iran's stance on a confrontation with the United States is too clear to require any such pretexts. Therefore, what purpose does the repetition of such remarks serve, especially claims such as "Iran purchased billions of dollars worth of weapons..." and so on? It appears that the U.S. has had failures one after the other in trying to forge its "new world order." The resulting vacuum in the bipolar world has motivated the residual elements of the Cold War in the United States to try to compensate for their failures and to fill the existing vacuum by carving out a new pole. It is for this purpose that they are after Iran, as they have admitted themselves that "Iran's spiritual clout among the Muslim countries of Africa, Asia, even of Europe is a source of concern."

Even though Iran has sought to forge new relations with the West and to mitigate the existing tension, such propaganda fanned by the U.S. media indicates that the Westerners—the Americans in particular—are not willing to learn a lesson from the past or to comprehend the changes that have emerged in Iran and the world. They still think that by indulging in belligerence and propagandistic blackmail, they can pursue their illicit interests. Such experiments have lost their novelty for Iranians and only strengthen their determination on the path to a confrontation with the Americans. When the hungry Somalis can send the bodies of American soldiers home, the more war-experienced people of Iran are well aware of their obligations.

Today, more than ever before, the remarks of the imam become clear to intelligent people: "The United States cannot do anything wrong to Iran." The U.S. officials and analysts are requested to attend to their insolvent economy instead of voicing such claims and allegations in the media and they should challenge their Asian and European rivals instead. Of course, in order to succeed in this battle, the United States should reappraise its relations with Third World countries. Third World countries in general now tend to lean toward Japan and Europe, which can only expedite the U.S. defeat on the international level. It would be well worth their while for the U.S. officials to think of peace rather than warmongering and not to dissipate their resources in wars in Iraq, Somalia, and so on.

The wise learn from their mistakes and do not repeat them. If the U.S. officials insist on repeating their errors, the Iranian people are ready to teach them a lesson that they will never forget.

Larijani on Peace Process, Relations With West

NC0501134594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Dec 93 p 3

[Final installment of a two-part "exclusive" interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, head of the Majles Research Center; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] The United States and Israel pursued specific objectives in the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Among the most important of these objectives was extinguishing the struggle against the occupiers of Jerusalem and fomenting a conflict among the Palestinian groups.

During the period since 'Arafat's agreement with the Zionists, have they been able to approach their objective?

[Larijani] The United States and Israel expected that most of the Palestinians would accept the Gaza-Jericho accord. They claimed that 65 percent of the Palestinians would accept this accord. What Israel truly wanted was to hand over a small piece of populous land like Gaza or Jericho in exchange for the disappearance of the intifadah. It also wanted the doors of the world of Islam to be opened so that it could enter this world. Of course, the oppressed Palestinian people displayed very sharp political instincts during this phase.

No matter how I examine this issue, I think that the first phase of the plan has been a complete failure because the intifadah is intensifying. The Israelis are saying that elections will take place if the intifadah ends but that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cannot gain the majority of votes! Therefore, the Israelis have reached an interesting impasse that has revealed many things. They came forward in the name of democracy. But because it was possible that 'Arafat would not gain any votes, they decided it would be advisable to put an end to democracy and to select a group of people to manage the area themselves!

I think that the failure of these two phases is very substantial, and, God willing, other defeats will come. There was a time when Israel only faced the armies of Arab countries. Today it is facing an extremely strong and growing body—the body formed by awakened Muslims. This body is much stronger and more dangerous than the armies and their weapons. For example, once Israel became friends with the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian Army was no longer considered a threat to Israel. Israel has not been able to ignore the people and the Muslim masses that have started to advance, however. Therefore, there is an immense Islamic movement facing Israel today, and this is much worse for it than an army.

Israel insists that, along with the compromise plan, the doors of the world of Islam must be opened upon it. It believes that if these doors are not opened now, it will be more difficult to do so in the future. This is also proof that the Islamic movement is advancing. God willing, this Islamic movement will become established in the world of Islam, and it will save the world of Islam from Israeli domination and plots.

[RESALAT] Can the contrariness that has emerged in Islamic and Western cultures be resolved? Some people might think that we can work together on common points. Is this contrariness such that they can justify this way of thinking?

[Larijani] The correct word here is not contrariness or equivocation. The Westerners influence the world of Islam and want to expand and maintain this influence. Therefore, they have started an onslaught against our wealth, our independence, and our culture. But the world of Islam is resisting. This onslaught is aimed at gaining influence over the world of Islam. Its history can be traced. Over the past century, the West has been able to split the world of Islam into small pieces, plunder Islamic resources, and place its own men in power in many key parts of the world. In other words, their political influence and economic plundering have very extensive cultural aspects. And it is against this Western onslaught that the world of Islam is defending itself. [passage omitted]

The reason why Iran is a target of this onslaught is because we have hoisted the banner of confrontation. Fortunately, this banner is now in the hands of all Muslims and will be handed to the next generation. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] France's decision to grant refuge to a number of terrorists has enraged the people of Iran. What steps does the Majles intend to take to confront this act by France?

[Larijani] Of course, I did not want the West and France to act differently toward the world of Islam, but we do not fear anyone when it comes to safeguarding our interests and our security. Fortunately, our country is an extremely strong and stable country. There are not many countries in the region that enjoy the power and stability that we do.

I believe that the world cannot advance on the basis of the hostilities that the Westerners are creating today and on the basis of their overt intervention, lies, and duplicities. They have seen that we are serious about confronting terrorism, and yet their countries are the hearths of terrorism! They say that insulting a prostitute is tantamount to a violation of human rights, but they are prepared to place thousands in front of their own firing squads! I think that this era is ending, however.

As far as establishing relations with the world is concerned, we should keep two points in mind. The first is that we should get to know ourselves—get to know what we have to say and where we are going. The second is that we should be able to stand on our own two feet. If the esteemed leader emphasizes the need for self-sufficiency and for standing on our own two feet, it is because we must be able to express ourselves in the best possible way to continue living in this world and to be able to say what we have to say to the world. This is the only way our relations with the world can have a completely logical basis. Of course, these principles are more or less observed today, and I think that the West should not expect to have logical relations with us by imposing things on us. All the governments that tried to do so have

failed. Experience has shown that cooperation with Iran can only be on the basis of mutual respect and reciprocal interests.

[RESALAT] How real do you consider the differences between Europe and the United States to be? What is our opinion of this?

[Larijani] Of course, this difference is deep-rooted, and it is still the beginning. The root of the differences between the two is economic rivalry. [passage omitted]

I think that the smaller the power monopoly in the world, the better it is for us. In other words, we can live in a world with a great deal of competition instead of a world divided into competitive blocs. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] In the new world order, the United States has made great efforts to impose itself as the sole superpower in the world. However, it has been unable to do so, and the weaknesses in Clinton's personality, as well as the extensive criticisms against U.S. foreign policy, are good examples of this failure. What is your opinion?

[Larijani] What can be said to have definitely ended are the claims of world leadership by the United States. In other words, the world is not ready for a country like the United States to say that it is the leader of the world, nor is it ready to see the establishment of an exclusive club for world leadership. [passage omitted]

The West wants to transform the United Nations into a headquarters for world leadership. But the philosophy behind the formation of the United Nations was that it should be a forum for discussions among nations and not the headquarters of a world leadership. When they say that the United Nations should be decisive, have an army, safeguard peace, and—according to themselves—prevent any threats to peace, these are all incorrect charts of the course that the United Nations should take.

I think that the United Nations is extremely decisive and that this is sufficient. It should let the people of the world defend themselves. We should not expect the United Nations to send forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The United Nations has tied the hands of the Muslims there. I think that there should be some changes in the United Nations. We should support a decrease in the power of the Security Council and efforts to transform the United Nations into a forum where more discussions and debates take place. We should not expect the United Nations to act. We should ask all those who say that the United Nations should have the power to act: Under whose leadership? Where should it receive its orders from? They say: We will form a world rule for you. But world rule will be established when the imam of the ages reappears, God willing.

As for whether those who have strength should once again rule, I believe that in our strategy at the United Nations and in the Third World, we should support the idea of extracting the extra teeth of the United Nations because these teeth have always been beneficial for the hegemonists. Therefore, in this new phase a type of joint leadership for the world is a theory on which they are working and for this reason Japan and Germany too want to enter the Security Council. In other words, if one day the Americans opposed this idea, today they are insisting on it. Therefore, today they have descended one step from their previous position. But, God willing, their new theory too will soon be defeated and the human race will see better days.

Pakistan Invited to Tehran ECO Meeting

LD0501200094 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Iran's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, has invited his Pakistani counterpart to take part in the ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] to be held in Tehran from 25 to 26 January.

The invitation was handed over by the Iranian Foreign Ministry's director general for west Asia in a meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday [4 January].

During the meeting the two sides also discussed issues of mutual interest.

Commentary Calls For New Lebanese Government

NC0501184494 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Dec 93 p 12

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Lebanon—The Need for Change in the Government"]

[Text] The day those who opposed the compromise between 'Arafat and Rabin were subjected to a volley of bullets and demonstrators were dragged into blood and dust, the reality emerged that al-Hariri's government is not prepared to transform the country into a center for opposition by the opponents of the compromise for autonomy for Gaza and Jericho.

Then, most groups criticized the Lebanese Government but as time passed, the opposition decreased and ultimately the issue was relegated to oblivion.

This is because every government that comes to power in Lebanon is subservient to the policies of Damascus and should have some coordination with Syria. If al-Hariri's government fires a hail of bullets on the opponents of the Rabin-'Arafat accord or resists them in parliament, it is solely because of its affiliation with Damascus.

This government faces danger, as it has passed its expiry date and should make way for another government. The straits the government is in also relate to Syria. If, in the early days of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho autonomy accord by 'Arafat and Rabin, Damascus reined in the various groups and promised the United States that it would prevent them from subversive activity, it was because the White House had pledged Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Syria's promise was endorsed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and

other Syrian officials. Syria also asked Lebanon to rein in opponents' activities and this was why the demonstrations were dragged into blood and dust.

Time has shown that the United States does not intend to honor its pledge to Syria, so Syria has revised its policy. Syria has hardened its stance on the Rabin-'Arafat accord, which was proven during the recent meetings between Warren Christopher and Syrian officials, which necessitated a review of the stance on the opponents of the Gaza-Jericho Accord by the al-Hariri government.

It now appears—in view of change and the crisis that has engulfed Lebanon—that the al-Hariri regime has reached the end of its tenure and should make way for a new government. There is talk of a former minister coming to power who leans more toward Syria and coordinates better with it. In such circumstances, the opposing groups, particularly the Islamic Resistance in south Lebanon, will extend their activity and escalate their attacks on Israel and Antoine Lahd's forces. This will continue until Damascus officially joins the peace trend and the problem of the Golan Heights is solved. Until then, Lebanon will follow the policies of Damascus and oppose the peace trend.

Commentary on President's Remarks to Students

Policy on Foreign Debts Criticized

NC0501160094 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 21 Dec 93 p 2

[First installment of a two-part unattributed commentary: "In the Margin of the President's Remarks"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarks to students of Martyr Beheshti University in which he criticized the stance of the mass media on economic issues and especially commented on the reasons behind the rise in foreign exchange rates. These remarks make it necessary to give the following explanations.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said about foreign debts: "It is true that in the current year we have been unable to repay some of our foreign debts. But the media are wrong in reporting that these debts are high."

Of course, it is a source of pleasure that the president, as the highest ranking executive official of the country, has, at any rate, accepted the fact that we have not been able to repay our foreign debts on the due date in the current year. When the country's high-ranking officials have correct information on this issue but do not place this information at the disposal of the people and the mass media, then rumors start. There is no doubt that under such conditions each person refers to one figure or another. But we know that the total amount of our foreign debt is somewhere near $28 billion, of which $10 billion are for goods that we have committed ourselves to purchase but which have not yet been delivered. If the government wants to, it can cancel these orders and not add to the $18 billion of debts that we already have and out of which $8 billion had to be repaid by the government this year. If this problem is not solved, this figure will increase in the coming years. These are figures and information that the press has been able to gather from here and there.

But what is Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani criticizing? Does he believe that the press should not tell the truth? Or is he criticizing the fact that the figures were published? Does he believe that these figures are incorrect? Then why do the officials not come out and state the true figures to the press? Naturally, the best way to prevent incorrect reporting is through a realistic approach by the officials.

The president also said: "If there are pressures as far as the repayment of debts is concerned, it is because our creditors are not our friends and the plans that they have drawn up are such that they have not given us enough time for repayment."

This statement in itself shows that Iran should have been more careful about which country it received loans from. Frankly speaking, what need was there for us to get loans for our reconstruction and economic development from countries or companies that are not our friends? Does this mean that we have asked for loans and assistance from our enemies? How can this be justified? What need is there for us to carry out transactions with someone who is not our friend? But we deal with countries like Japan, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and other countries that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has repeatedly described as friends of the Islamic Republic and he has called for the expansion of relations with them. However, when the press questioned the quality and the quantity of our relations with these countries, our officials described these efforts by the press as a type of obstructionism in Iran's foreign relations and told us that we cannot avoid relations with a country that wants to be our friend and that the press should not resort to such obstructionism. Then how is it that these countries were our friends then and have now become our enemies and are obstructing matters? Is it not that we resorted to an unrestrained expansion of relations with these countries without taking true conditions into consideration? Is it not that we set foot on a wrong path without carrying out the necessary calculations?

The other point is that it has been repeatedly stated that foreign loans and investments were in economic and fundamental fields that promised immediate returns that would ensure the rapid repayment of these loans. But this has not happened. Was this because of wrong policies? Is it correct for us to receive a loan from the World Bank and build the huge building of the Central Bank and other such projects instead of using it for profitable fields such as agriculture and so on? Naturally, when a foreign loan is taken out for the Central Bank, it will not have any economic returns and cannot ensure an income with which we can repay a loan when it expires.

Is it correct for us to allocate World Bank loans to development projects and then face a difficulty in repaying them?

Basically, why do we expect the repayment time for our debts to expire and the creditor not to request payment, and then—if he expresses lack of confidence in us—to think that he is our enemy? This is an irrational expectation. We should plan so as to avoid difficulties when it comes to meeting our commitments.

If from the very beginning we had foreseen all these conditions, it would have been better for us not to seek loans at all. It would have been better if the reconstruction of Rudbar and Manjil had been completed a year late, if the huge Central Bank building had not been constructed, and if the plan for the surface waters of Tehran and its suburbs had not been completed rather than for us to pawn our country's prestige for such development projects.

Stating these points is not critical or antagonistic. It is only a realistic belief that the people should be informed about such issues, that the officials should be broad-minded enough to realize that the press is reflecting problems in an unbiased manner, and to compile programs to solve these problems.

Problems With Exchange Rate Viewed

NC0501165294 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 22 Dec 93 p 2

[Second and last installment of an unattributed commentary: "In the Margin of the President's Remarks"]

[Text] One of the interesting points in the remarks the president made at the gathering of students of Martyr Beheshti University and in his remarks when presenting the bill on the Second Five-Year Plan as well as the bill on the budget to the Majles was his reference to the fact that oil and oil prices will not have a major impact on the country's economy and reconstruction. The president told the students: "Even if oil prices fall to $10 a barrel, we will not face a problem."

In his remarks to the Majles when presenting the budget bill, he said: "Oil is one of the country's major sources of income and recently income from this important resource has dropped 20 to 30 percent and has affected our Plan. This made us review and readjust our Plan and our budget. This was a very difficult task; hence, the two-week delay in presenting the budget."

The basic problem is that the main slogan of our economy after the Islamic revolution has been the need to try to decrease the role of oil in our country's economy; and one of the major objectives stated in the First Plan was the need to alter the country's economic infrastructure and to gradually decrease the role of oil. If today we compare our budget with our budget four years ago, we will not see a perceptible change in the true dependence on oil incomes, and this point was extremely clear in the president's remarks as well. Now we should try to see why—despite extensive plans that have been implemented and the extensive investments that have been made—our dependence on oil incomes has not perceptibly changed.

In part of his remarks to Martyr Beheshti University students, the president stated that the drop in the exchange rate is due to the psychological atmosphere that has been created and that the drop in oil prices is a plot by world arrogance. The issue is that if we have really reached a stage where even the drop in oil prices to $10 a barrel is not a problem for us, then why—during the past one month—has there been a 100 percent rise in the exchange rate of the dollar? If between 20 to 30 percent of this stems from the psychological atmosphere and because of middlemen, then the remaining 50 to 60 percent definitely stems from the drop in oil prices that form a large part of our country's foreign exchange income. Or if we glance at the figures in next year's budget, we can see that more than 50 percent of our country's incomes will be from the sale of oil.

Under these conditions, can the sudden drop in the price of oil to almost half—a resource that represents 50 percent of our income—not create acute problems for us? It is true that within the framework of our macro-economic plans, a large part of foreign exchange allocations for basic and industrial products has dropped but because of uncalculated economic and commercial policies, this foreign exchange economizing has not materialized. On the contrary, an unrestrained quantity of foreign exchange has been spent for the import of consumer and luxury goods. In these four years, because of the implementation of positive economic projects such as the petrochemical, aluminum, steel, and other industries, we have been able to save on between $1-$2 billion in foreign exchange each year—which is an extremely optimistic figure—but we have spent billions of dollars to import luxury items such as color television sets, household goods, cars, Coca Cola, chocolate, clothing, and other unnecessary items. If we accept the above-mentioned facts, then we will see that these unrestrained imports have wasted all our savings or our foreign exchange incomes from our exports of industrial and non-industrial goods. This is why oil and income from it during the past four years have continued to play a key role in current expenditures and in economic and development plans. And it is because of this that the fluctuations in the dollar and foreign exchange rates have been between 100 to 120 percent. This fluctuation and drop is because of the weakness of our national currency, and the weakness of our national currency is because of the fact that our true gross national product is low. If economizing in foreign exchange and in foreign exchange incomes coupled with economic projects could have led to economic investments, the gross national product could have increased and a rise in the gross national product could have paved the way for a brighter future and the repayment of our foreign debts. And if correct plans had been drawn up, we would not have

faced acute problems that we are facing today in meeting our foreign exchange commitments. Saying that such debts should not have existed in the First Plan is unprincipled. But the fact these debts have reached the level they have during the past four years is because of our failure to create a balance between incomes and expenditures and the implementation of economic plans.

Stating these points is in no way a criticism and should be considered only to be within the framework of our interests because basically, the ability to see realities and to create a correct basis for plans and programs can help the government achieve the objectives that it has laid out.

Pakistan

President Discusses Kashmir With UK Official

BK0501150994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the Kashmir problem is a stumbling block in the way of durable peace and stability in the region. The president was talking to the chairman of All Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group of Britain, Lord (Eric Evory) in Islamabad today. The president said that the only way to resolve the problem is to give the people of Kashmir their inalienable right of self-determination. Referring to the gross violations of human rights in the occupied Kashmir, the president said that Pakistan would continue to utilize all diplomatic channels to awaken the world conscience against continuing repression in the occupied valley. Lord (Evory) told the president that the UN ability to help in the resolution of the problem has been stymied by the Indian reluctance to cooperate.

Lord (Evory) also called on Senate Chairman Mr. Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad today. The Senate chairman drew the attention to the fact that since the Kashmir issue has its roots in the time of British India, it is special responsibility of the Great Britain to influence the world opinion for peaceful solution of the issue. Expressing his deep concern over the situation, Lord (Evory) said that the magnitude of atrocities being committed by the Indian forces has no match in the past.

President Calls Kashmir Talks 'Victory'

BK0601152194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said that Pakistan attaches the highest importance to peace and security in the Indian Ocean, as the country depends heavily on the sea for trade, commerce, and other economic benefits. He was addressing the 60th midshipmen commissioning parade at the Pakistan Naval Academy [PNA], PNS Rahbar, in Karachi today. On arrival at the naval academy, the president was accorded the general salute. He reviewed the parade. The president gave prizes to the outstanding midshipmen. He gave the chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee, gold medal to Cadet Mohammad Amin Sharif, PNA dirk for runner-up to Midshipman Mohammad Waheed, and the sword of honor to Midshipman Rahim Akbar. Champion division and winner of proficiency banner was Fox-1 Division.

Speaking on the occasion, the president said the Indian Ocean constitutes the lifeline of the world economy, as about one-fourth of international trade passes through it. He said Pakistan being a littoral state, its concern is perfectly legitimate; and inexplicably large naval buildup by any country in the region naturally and understandably heightens our worries about the security of our shores and the safety of our sea lanes. He said this concern can be allayed if the Indian Ocean is declared a zone of peace.

Congratulating the passing-out midshipmen, the president emphasized the need for a high spirit of patriotism. The commanding officer of the academy said that the highest professional training has been given to the passing-out midshipmen. March past and salute to the president by the midshipmen. [video shows midshipmen marching past and saluting the president]. Earlier, the president visited some ships of the Pakistan naval fleet.

Later talking to newsmen informally at PNS Rahbar in Karachi today, the president said that Pakistan had agreed to participate in the Indo-Pak secretary-level talks, as it sincerely desired the solution of the Kashmir dispute. The president said, moreover, it was a welcome move for Pakistan, as during the last three decades, it was for the first time that India had agreed to discuss the Kashmir issue. It was heartening to note that at least Kashmir was recognized as a legitimate dispute, the president added. The president said from Pakistan's view, it was a victory as at last India finally recognized that Kashmir is a disputed territory which needs ultimate solution. He said the resumption of Indo-Pak talks was actually a support from Pakistan to the liberation struggle of the Kashmiris, as it greatly values their just struggle. Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Kashmir issue is a most intricate issue and one should not expect immediate results.

Minister Briefs Assembly Committee on Kashmir

BK0501142494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] The special committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir was informed today that Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue was put across to the Indian side during the Pak-India talks. The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, while briefing the committee on Pak-India talks in Islamabad today, said that the talks focused on the Kashmir issue. The Pakistan side emphasized that India must take visible steps to reduce repression in the Indian-held Kashmir, including deinduction [reduction] of troops from the valley, release of political leaders, and their unhindered access to the human rights organizations and foreign

governments. The committee was informed by the foreign minister that although the talks failed to achieve any results, the fact that Kashmir remained the focus of attention during the talks and acknowledgment by India that Kashmir was a disputed area amounts to a diplomatic gain for us.

Spokesman Reacts to Indian Comments on Kashmir

BK0501161694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has expressed disappointment at India's reaction to the Kashmir dispute and said that India is responsible for not resolving outstanding problems between the two countries.

A Foreign Office spokesman told reporters in Islamabad today that Pakistan has taken notice of Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit's statement that the presentation of Indian proposals on Siachen Glacier, Wullar Barrage, Sir Creek, and nuclear nonproliferation will depend on Pakistan's response to holding the next round of foreign secretary-level talks. The spokesman said that during his stay in Islamabad, Dixit pledged that proposals on these issues will be submitted within two weeks. But the Indian foreign secretary said at a news briefing yesterday that the presentation of Indian proposals will depend on Pakistan's response to holding the next round of talks between foreign secretaries within four months. The spokesman said all these problems—Siachen, Wullar Barrage, Sir Creek, nuclear proliferation, and Kashmir—were created by India. He added that if India puts forward proposals to solve the problems that it has created, how can this be described as a liberal concession to Pakistan? The spokesman said the latest Indian statements confirm Pakistan's view that India has remained intransigent on the core issue of Kashmir.

Answering a question, the spokesman said that Pakistan will consider how and when to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations in light of the outcome of the India-Pakistan talks.

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